FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 FEBRUARY 1985

Lebanon

The Lebanese Army deployed in the Sidon area following the IDF's withdrawal on 16 February and President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in the city the following day accompanied by Prime Minister Rashid Karami, Beirut radio reported. Al-Jumayyil congratulated the people of the south "on this first liberation step" in remarks broadcast by the radio, promising that the state will continue its "energetic efforts to liberate every inch" of the country and praising the resistance fighters for charting "the proper course." Meanwhile, the radio announced that three Lebanese "agents" of Israel were "liquidated" in Sidon and that nine others were arrested by national resistance fighters in the Al-Zahrani district. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Sidon's "jubilation" surrounding the arrival of the Lebanese Army and President al-Jumayyil was followed by a "negative" development — the arrival of "Hezbollah" gunmen from southern Beirut on 18 February. The gunmen returned to Beirut after staging an armed demonstration and raiding several shops in Sidon, the radio noted.

Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had announced the decision to withdraw on 16 February in a statement broadcast by Jerusalem radio that day, asserting that the withdrawal was being implemented 2 days before the 18 February deadline "for various considerations." Citing Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, Israel's *HADASHOT* subsequently disclosed that the decision to withdraw ahead of schedule was intended to avert a spate of attacks against the IDF. Nevertheless, three IDF soldiers were killed by attacks in southern Lebanon on 18 and 19 February, including a colonel who was the Israeli adviser to army of southern Lebanon commander Antoine Lahd, according to Jerusalem radio. As for Israel's relations with the Lebanese authorities, *HADASHOT* spoke of "surprise and anger" in Jerusalem over President al-Jumayyil's "provocative" remarks in Sidon, noting that Israel will warn him against encouraging attacks on the IDF.

Meanwhile, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad congratulated al-Jumayyil on the "victory" achieved through the IDF withdrawal from Sidon, Damascus radio reported, and the Syrian leader subsequently received Lebanese Ministers Nabih Birri, Walid Junblatt, and Salim al-Huss, according to SANA. As for the Syrian military presence in Lebanon, Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh told Beirut's *AL-SAFIR* that Syria is waiting for "the appropriate time to withdraw 12,000 Syrian soldiers from Lebanon to Syria so that our Army can carry out other national tasks." Syria needs to safeguard its borders from Turkey to the Golan Heights, he said, and it is "out of the question" for Syria to ensure security in Beirut, though it might give security assistance to the Lebanese authorities if they ask for such help. Meanwhile, a 17 February commentary by Damascus radio stressed that the Lebanese national resistance's victories against the IDF were the result of Syria's backing. Israeli admissions that the withdrawal from southern Lebanon was caused by the pressure of fedayeen operations have a "far-reaching implication" for the West Bank and Gaza Strip and confirm that resistance is the only option that will force Israel to withdraw, the radio added. In similar vein Riyadh radio stressed that the liberation of Sidon shows that force is necessary to regain the occupied Arab territories and confirms that what has been seized by force can only be recovered by force.

In a separate Lebanese development, a car-bomb exploded in the southern suburb of Beirut on 18 February, killing 4 people and wounding 41 others, Beirut radio announced. Earlier, in the wake of U.S. journalist Jeremy Levin's escape, an Islamic Jihad spokesman warned AP that his organization will execute one of the Americans in its custody, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Iran-Iraq War

Attacks on Gulf shipping were pushed further south when Iranian jets struck a Kuwaiti container vessel eight miles north of the Abu Kush oilfield on 18 February, the *GULF DAILY NEWS* reported. In a separate development, four Iraqi boats carrying personnel were forced to flee when they tried to infiltrate Iranian positions near Jofeyr on 17 February, according to the Iranian military communique cited by IRNA.

Meanwhile, an Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman "strongly denied" Iranian claims that Iraq refused to receive a group of POW's released by Iran, INA announced.

Iran

Information Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi Reyshahri revealed that two hijacking attempts by the "Monafeqin," the Iranian authorities' term for the Mojahedin-e Khalq, were "discovered" by security officials during the Ten Days of Dawn ceremonies, IRNA reported.

Sudan

U.S. Aid — Reacting to reports that the United States has stopped its economic aid to Sudan, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said it would be a "mistake" to stop aid to Sudan and that he will discuss this issue during his visit to Washington, MENA reported. Meanwhile, Libya is ready to extend aid to Sudan "equal to what used to be paid" by the United States, according to a Foreign Liaison Bureau source cited by JANA.

University Closed — The president of Khartoum University closed all the university colleges "for an indefinite period" following "quarrels" between two groups of students on 15-16 February, SUNA announced.

Egypt

Tabah Talks — Israeli and Egyptian delegations will meet in Ismailia "in a few days" to continue discussions on the Tabah issue, Jerusalem radio reported on 15 February.

PLO-Jordan — Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid confirmed Egypt's support for the Jordanian-PLO agreement but also noted that Egypt believes the Palestinians "are right" in their "reservations" about UN Resolution 242, according to MENA.

PLO

At a press conference in Libya, Abu Khalid Al-'Amlah announced the formation of a joint command comprised of members of Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha's New Revolutionary Movement in Fatah and Sabri al-Banna's Revolutionary Council, Tripoli radio reported. Amman television maintained that Syria "pushed" the Fatah dissidents to merge with Al-Banna's group to establish an "alternative leadership" for the PLO.

Morocco

King Hassan II appointed Abdellatif Filali to replace Abdelouahed Belkaziz as foreign minister, MAP announced. Earlier, the agency reported, citing *AL-ALAM* newspaper, Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lamrani had been instructed by King Hassan II to form a new government. Lamrani also received "royal directives" concerning the "general lines" of the government's program, the report added.

DRA

A BAKHTAR statement, broadcast by Kabul radio, maintained that the PRC has become the "main center" for supplying weapons to and training Afghan counterrevolutionary bands. The statement also noted that the DRA Foreign Ministry drew attention to the "consequences" of these hostile actions in a "protest note" to the PRC.

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Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Tunis From Bucharest

JN161717 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] arrived in Tunis last night from Bucharest following an official visit. During the visit he met with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and discussed recent developments in the Palestinian question on all levels.

Our radio correspondent has learned that Abu 'Ammar will chair a PLO Executive Committee meeting today and participate in Fatah Central Committee meetings which will discuss the formula for joint Palestinian-Jordanian action that was reached between Jordan and the PLO in Amman recently.

'Arafat Chairs PLO Executive Committee Session

LD182258 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] chaired the session of the PLO Executive Committee which began yesterday morning. The session is discussing a number of political and technical issues, primarily the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement reached recently in Amman. The committee is also discussing the situation in the occupied regions, the situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon in light of the redeployment of Israeli forces in the south, and the decisions made by the Supreme Military Council, which was held recently. WAFA has learned that the Executive Committee will issue a political statement at the end of its meetings and will make a number of decisions on the administrative and organizational conditions inside the PLO, and in particular the work of the committees set up by the Palestine National Council.

Meetings Discuss Jordan Agreement

JN181714 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] The Palestinian meetings are continuing in Tunis under the chairmanship of brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in order to discuss the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement reached last week. Brother Muhammad Milhim, PLO Executive Committee member, said the Executive Committee will discuss its plan of action on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels in light of the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement. Muhammad Milhim said the committee will also discuss all aspects of the Palestinian issue, especially the situation of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied land. It will also review the operation of various Palestinian revolution institutions.

PLO's Al-Wazir Arrives in Tunis From Amman

JN161737 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has arrived in Tunis from Amman to participate in Fatah Central Committee meetings and other Palestinian meetings which will be held at the Palestinian headquarters in Tunis.

Khalid al-Hasan Interviewed on Jordan-PLO Accords

JN152111 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1912 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan on "It Happened Tomorrow" program by Radio Monte Carlo news director Antoine Nawfal; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] Brother Khalid, "It Happened Tomorrow" program welcomes you today for well-known reasons. You are one of the architects of the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement. Moreover, you have not yet made a statement on that agreement. Therefore, many Arab capitals, the big capitals, and Palestinian circles are interested in your statements. My first question is: Do you consider the agreement on Jordanian-Palestinian moves, which has taken place between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat, identical with the concepts or, let us say, with the forumula [words indistinct]? I remind you that you are one of the architects of the basic agreement.

[Al-Hasan] The agreement that has taken place in Amman is not the formula that I carried from Amman, but the formula that I carried from the joint meeting between the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee. At this stage, I assumed the role of a negotiator between Amman and Tunis. We went to Jordan and presented our ideas stemming from the Fes resolutions, international legitimacy, the PNC's 13th session, and particularly from the PNC's 17th session. Several ideas and formulas have been amended. I carried these ideas to Tunis and returned to Amman with new ideas until the current agreement was reached between His Majesty King Husayn and Brother Yasir 'Arafat in the presence of the members of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee, who also participated in the joint meetings.

[Nawfal] There is great secrecy shrouding the clauses of the agreement. I do not know whether this secrecy will serve the agreement in the end. Every side leaks what can serve its position, so inevitably we have a group of contradictory points. For example, some say that the delegation will be an expanded Arab one. Others say that it will be Jordanian. However, Jordanian Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat says that it will include Jordanian and Palestinian elements on equal footing. How many clauses are there? What are the clauses regarding the formation of the delegation?

[Al-Hasan] At the PNC's 17th session in Amman, King Husayn called for PLO participation in the international conference as the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative, beside all the other parties that will participate in the conference. King Husyan has proposed that the Palestinain delegation participate in the conference; the PNC resolutions have also stressed the legitimacy of the PLO's representation and the need for PLO participation in the international conference with the other sides. Therefore, I do not know how there can be any different ideas. Regrettably, we live in a time of doubts and accusations because some sides are believed to be always wrong and other sides always right. The PNC and even the opponents have agreed on the resolutions of the PNC's 16th session, on the Soviet initiative, and on the Fes summit. Therefore, no one has the right to demand from us other than what has been agreed upon. I can stress that our agreement with Jordan is aimed at beginning a move that does not conflict with the resolutions of the PNC's 17th session [word indistinct] and with the distinguished relations with Jordan; these relations begin with the confederation between two states and end with the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative and the side that will participate in any delegation in order to guarantee the Palestinian people's representation. There is nothing in the PNC, Fes, or UN resolutions regarding the Middle East and the Palestine question, or in the international legitimacy that formed a base for the Fes summit and to which the resolutions of the PNC's 17th session referred. There is nothing in them that may conflict or even disagree with the agreement.

Regarding the secrecy of the agreement, I can say that this is done for political and diplomatic reasons. We are committed to the PNC's resolution, Palestinian legitimacy, Arab legitimacy, and our agreement with Jordan. On the other hand, any agreement with Jordan should be agreed upon by the Arabs. Following this agreement, we will begin work in the international arena through an Arab movement based on Palestinian-Jordanian joint action.

[Nawfal] Will the agreement remain secret for a long time?

[Al-Hasan] I do not believe it will be kept secret for a long time. The painful matter is that some parties have attacked the agreement before being acquainted with it. There are some parties who have also attacked the agreement on the basis of the reports carried by *THE WASHINGTON POST*, such as the statement issued by the DFLP.

[Nawfal] We will discuss this later. You say that the agreement should be presented to the Arabs and be agreed on by them. How should this be done: through an Arab summit or through contacting each Arab country?

[Al-Hasan] We prefer an Arab summit. However, until the summit convenes, this should be conveyed to all Arabs, to each country. Brother Yasir 'Arafat carried out part of this mission. Jordan is also carrying out another part of this mission. Whenever the summit convenes, it will be presented to the summit. If international diplomatic moves call for discussing this agreement with competent parties, the results of the reaction produced by the agreement with regard to King Fahd's, the Algerian president's, or King Husayn's visit to Washington will be presented to the summit conference. Through the summit decision, the final decision will be adopted.

[Nawfal] Will Egypt play a role?

[Al-Hasan] I do not rule out that Egypt will play a role, because Egypt is part of the process in general through its relationship with Gaza. It is too early to know the size and form of this role. When Egypt plays a role, it does so in accordance with the bases decided by the Palestinians.

[Nawfal] I will quote the Jordanian prime minister, because it seems to me what he said are the only accurate remarks. He said: The agreement includes a proposed Arab confederation as soon as the required conditions are met. Does this mean that the confederation is still a plan and will not be achieved in the near future?

[Al-Hasan] The entire process is still a plan. We are talking about matters as if all issues have been solved and we have decided whether or not to establish a confederation with Jordan. The entire subject is a plan. In order to coordinate with Jordan, and prevent any contradictions due to the lack of a basic principle for future relations, the PNC made a decision on distinguished and special relations with Jordan and decided that the relationship should be based on a confederation between two states. There should be agreement so that it will be the reference or the compass that defines bilateral relations.

[Nawfal] So far, you have not told us the number of clauses in the agreement. However, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine today disclosed a five-clause plan: land in exchange for peace, the Palestinian people's right to self- determination, solving the problems of the refugees in accordance with UN resolutions, solving all issues of the Palestine cause, and an international conference. The front condemned the agreement on this basis. The PFLP and other Palestinian figures did the same thing. How do you view these condemnations and how do you judge them?

[Al-Hasan] Those parties are against the agreement with Jordan on principle, not on content. They do not discuss the content, they discuss the principle of the agreement. In their telephone calls and their stands, they rejected agreement with Jordan even before the talks for an agreement began. These parties reject the principle of agreement out of an ideological principle concerning reactionism, progressiveness, the right course, and the left course. We, as a national liberation movement, proceeding from the PLO National Charter and from our understanding of the national liberation movement, do not believe in these matters. We deal with content, not with form. We should preserve the content in a way that will serve our people's interests. It is regrettable to attack something without knowing the details and to claim knowledge of its contents through reports by some U.S. newspapers, particularly *THE WASHINGTON POST*, which published the points you mentioned. What I can say is that the number of clauses is not important. What is important is the content of the clauses. We have not violated the Fes resolutions, the PNC resolutions, or international legitimacy, which was included in the Soviet proposal and the Fes summit — resolutions that were agreed on by all, enthusiastically. It is a formula of the principles which are a short-term objective and which the summit decided to acheive at this stage in our history.

[Nawfal] Brother Khalid, Usamah al-Baz, director of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's office, has said that the fact that Resolution No 242 was not mentioned does not mean that this resolution was ruled out from the principles on which negotiations will be based. Where does Resolution No 242 fit in the agreement?

[Al-Hasan] Everyone tries to interpret things in a manner that satisfies his informational line. In fact, it is better for us to deal with the Palestine question as a question of refugees. Hence, the PLO along with the Arab states, including Egypt, tried to amend Resolution 242. However, it was revealed that according to UN procedures the resolution cannot be amended. Therefore, there was another attempt to issue another resolution that complements 242 and, consequently, cancels the confinement of 242 to the subejct of Palestinian refugees by containing a phrase on the Palestinian people's national rights. Hence, Resolution No 242 is the only resolution that the Palestinian people and the PLO rejected because it dealt with the question as one of refugees. If the resolution had dealt with the Palestine question as one of people and as a national cause, it would have been viewed differently. We found out that the UN resolutions as a whole contain all the PLO demands as expressed in the resolutions of its PNC sessions at this stage. These demands are firmly established facts that should not be conceded, as well as firm and irrevocable rights that were mentioned in all these introductions. Hence, the subject in this case is not Resolution No 242 or any other certain resolution, but the overall resolutions that ultimately achieve withdrawal and guarantee the Palestinian people's national inalienable rights. Naturally, these rights are not secret because the PNC resolutions are public. They call for repatriation, self-determination, and a state.

[Nawfal] Some consider the principle of land in exchange for peace a recognition of Resolution No 242 and a recognition of Israel. How can one get out of this whirlpool, and has the agreement found an internationally accepted way out of it?

[Al-Hasan] I believe that we are supposed to find a way out in such a manner that does not lead to conceding the principled facts and bases. I say frankly that I cannot reply to or converse with those who reject something issued in Tunis, Amman, or any given Arab country and agree to something else issued in Moscow or any other Arab country. Their motives in doing so are completely rejected. Those who accepted the Soviet initiative should be brave enough to agree to what is better, at least from the point of view of formulation. Therefore, they must be enlightened. We agree to opposition provided that this opposition is objective, committed, national, and aimed at promoting struggle. It should not be opposition just for the sake of opposition.

[Nawfal] Were you surprised to know that Shamir opposed the agreement? He said that this agreement confuses the relationship with the United States.

[Al-Hasan] First of all, I do not know if the United States will agree to this agreement between Jordan and the PLO. However, as long as there is a PLO and the phase of Palestinian people in any agreement whatsoever, Shamir will reject it because the Zionist policy stems from a refusal to recognize the Palestinian people as such and, consequently, a refusal to recognize the PLO as these people's representative; this is because a recognition of people means a recognition of their national rights. If Shamir has rejected Reagan's initiative, how can he agree to an agreement between Jordan and the PLO — an agreement that has nothing to do with the Reagan initiative or any other initiative except the Fes initiative and the UN resolutions?

[Nawfal] Do you have any information about Washington's position following King Fahd's visit? Washington still calls for direct negotiations with Israel, and the agreement calls for an international conference to avoid such direct negotiations. Do you believe that Washington may agree to such a conference, which is welcomed by all Arabs?

[Al-Hasan] Such a welcome is not enough. We need serious Arab action. We need Arab solidarity. We agree or disagree with others on an objective base, and not on the basis of hatred or revenge. We need a unified, serious Arab position. If we achieve this, we can say that we will win in the end. His Majesty King Fahd has not returned from his tour; therefore, we cannot know any details. Regarding the joint statement the two sides issued, we can say that it says all countries in the region have the right to live in security. The Fes resolutions called for such a right. This is the first time the United States has called for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. This is something important, because this is the first time that a joint statement between Arab leaders and the White House in Washington has called for such a right.

[Nawfal] Suppose that the international conference is not convened, will the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement end on the principle that it is only an agreement to a formula of a joint move?

[Al-Hasan] Brother Antoine, you ask me this question as if you are a member of the Democratic Front, which rejects for the sake of rejection or which rejects something because it did not come from a certain side.

[Nawfal] I mean that if the United States did not agree on convening an international conference, will the agreement with Jordan continue in its present form, or will it develop into another form?

[Al-Hasan] Before we discuss the international conference, we should have a U.S. recognition of the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative and of its right to participate in any negotiations on equal footing with all other participants. This is a battle, and the international confernece is a battle. In all this, we depend on the Palestinian legitimacy within the framework of an Arab legitimacy represented by an Arab agreement, particularly if the Arabs manage to convene an Arab summit.

[Nawfal] Khalid al-Hasan, as one of the architects of the agreement, do you believe that the efforts and agreement are serious and can lead to results, despite the many obstacles?

[Al-Hasan] They are serious for us, and I believe that Jordan is also serious. However, regarding the United States, I can say that it is being put to the test. Either it will continue its aggressive position, or a change will take place. When and how is something I cannot judge. All I can say is that we will exert our efforts to achieve our national objectives and to regain our national rights on the basis of the Palestinian and Arab legitimacy. We should continue to struggle until we achieve our goals.

Hani Al-Hasan Views Response to PLO-Jordan Accord

JN151923 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1740 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Fu'ad Na'im in Amman; date not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Na'im] Brother Hani al-Hasan, how do you view Syria's rejection of this agreement considering it is the Soviet Union's greatest ally in the region?

[Al-Hasan] From the beginning, we and Syria have had different strategic visions. Syria believes that it should separate the issues. It wants to separate Lebanon's issue from the Palestinian question and the Golan issue. It also wants to achieve regional gains. We hope that Arab unity will be achieved between Syria and Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, and Syria and Iraq, and we hope that this unity, in which Palestine will be a party, will be achieved. However, we distinguish between imagination and reality, and between capability and desire. Therefore, the Syrians want to save Lebanon first, and then move to the other issues. Everyone knows that the Lebanese issue has become very complicated. I hope that we will reach an agreement with our brothers in Syria. We know that nobody can solve an issue separate from the other issues. Linking the issues together and forming a unified front will resolve the Lebanese crisis and restore the Palestinians' usurped rights.

[Na'im][words indistinct] Do you expect a Soviet rejection of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement?

[Al-Hasan] I do not believe so, because we coordinate with our Soviet friends and allies on any step we take. I think that a short while ago Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] briefed our Soviet friends and allies on what we have agreed on. Undoubtedly, they may inquire about some points, but we have laid a base for a joint concept and not a framework for peace. Consequently, many amendments and details will take place in the coming stage. However, if there is a Soviet rejection, we will take that rejection into consideration and discuss it. Undoubtedly, we will adhere to our alliance with the Soviet Union because it is [word indistinct] a guarantee for us in the end. Hence, we adhere to the international conference as a framework in any forthcoming peace process.

[Na'im] Has Jordan relinquished its demand that the PLO recognize Resolution No 242, and are there any new elements in the joint agreement?

[Al-Hasan] To be fair, Jordan has not asked us to adopt Resolution No 242. Jordan has expressed its viewpoint. As a state, it recognized Resolution No 242. As you know, there is no Arab regime that did not recognize Resolution No 242. Syria has recognized Resolutions No 242 and 338; Jordan, Iraq, and all the Arab countries have recognized the resolution. Only the Palestinians have rejected that resolution [words indistinct]. Therefore, what is new is that we Jordanians and Palestinians managed to reach an understanding on a formula [words indistinct].

Khalil al-Wazir Discusses PLO Rejection of 242

JN151819 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Before his departure for Tunis today, Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander of the Palestinian revolution forces, commented on the Jordanian-PLO agreement by saying that the PLO has not authorized anyone to speak on its behalf. He said: The PLO rejects authorization or joint representation with anybody, because it is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Abu Jihad said that the agreement reached between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat in Amman does not contradict the basic, firm principles of the PLO — the principles that were adopted in the 16th and 17th PNC sessions. He added that the agreement provides for establishing an Arab confederation between the Jordanian and Palestinian states and for recognizing international legitimacy and all resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly and Security Council concerning the Palestine cause.

Abu Jihad said that in the agreement the PLO reiterates its rejection of Resolution 242, because it deals with the Palestinian problem as a problem of refugees. He added that the PLO is determined to put an end to the Israeli occupation of Arab territory, including Jerusalem.

Palestinians Condemn Jordan-PLO Agreement

DFLP's 'Abd Rubbah

JN152033 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, assistant secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has condemned the agreement of treason between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat. In a press conference he held today, 'Abd Rabbuh said that this agreement cancels the PLO's role and the Palestinian people's national rights, including their right to return, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state on Palestinian national soil.

'Abd Rabbuh said that the agreement is intentially misleading in regard to the peace talks being under the umbrella of an international conference and not within the framework of an international conference. In other words, the international conference is not a condition, but may take place at any later date in order to adopt the rights agreed on through direct bilateral negotiations. He pointed out that speaking about an international conference in the agreement completely contradicts the understanding reached by the PNC sessions and with the Soviet proposals. Under a Palestinian umbrella, the agreement wants the conference to approve the results of the agreement in advance.

The DFLP assistant secretary general said that the great danger of this agreement is represented in these points. The agreement disavows the Palestinian national rights; gives Jordan the role of a basic partner and negotiator on behalf of the Palestinian territory and in accordance with the principle of land in exchange for peace; and changes the formula of an international conference to a podium that would adopt what achievements from Israeli-Jordanian negotiations.

'Abd Rabbuh added: In its essential principles, the agreement converges with the Reagan plan and the U.S. plan to solve the Mideast crisis. It means the agreement of Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn on adopting the solution through the United States and on considering the formula of a U.S. solution the basis for tackling the Mideast problem. The agreement shows that the main issue is that of land in exchange for peace, contrary to Palestinian rights, which assert that the establishment of a Palestinian state for the Palestinian people is the central issue.

'Abd Rabbuh pointed out that the treacherous agreement went far beyond that, when it provided for the principle of land in exchange for peace in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations and the Security Council and adopted the resolution which included this principle, namely Resolution 242, as a basis for settlement. The issue of self-determination will be no more than an internal Jordanian-Palestinian issue after the agreement is settled, and will impose Jordanian sovereignty over the West Bank and Gaza, because self- determination — in accordance with the agreement — is not a right of only the Palestinian people, nor is it just a basis for a solution; self-determination is a joint right for the Palestinians and Jordanians within the framework of the confederation to be established.

'Abd Rabbuh asserted the need to expose the deceptive attempts practiced by Arab and Palestinian rightist reactionary circles to hide the reality of the agreement. He called for canceling the agreement by saying that accepting this agreement means relinquishing the PLO national program and destroying the bases on which Palestinian unity was established within the framework of the PLO. He pointed out that regaining Palestinian and PLO unity can only be achieved by canceling the agreement completely, frankly, and openly. He said that the DFLP has urged all national Palestinian parties and forces, especially inside the occupied territory, to announce a joint Palestinian stand inside and out, by all Palestinian circles and figures to reject and thwart the agreement. He said: The comprehensive national Palestinian stand rejects the agreement and calls for canceling it. All national Palestinian parties, including those parties that reject the agreement openly inside Fatah movement, should be united on this stand.

The DFLP assistant secretary general concluded his press conference by saying: The Palestinian people will impose their line and will over all deviant parties. Our battle, which we began, will triumph because our arms are the Palestinian people's will. The will of the Palestinian masses has always been the stronger will.

Fifteen Groups Sign Statement

JN180846 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0738 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus, 18 Feb (SANA) — Fifteen Palestinian organizations have declared their categorical rejection of the Amman agreement between Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn which, they say, includes grave concessions that ignore the legitimate national rights of the Palestine people and is a flagrant violation of PNC resolutions and national Palestinian consensus.

In a statement distributed in the occupied Arab territories and published here today, these organizations called for toppling and canceling this agreement and stressed their strong adherence to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people represented by the return, self-determination, and establishment of a national independent state under the banner of the PLO.

The Palestinian organizations expressed support for the USSR initiative on the Middle East and adherence to the convocation of an international conference with the participation of the PLO in an independent capacity and on an equal footing with other parties.

The statement was signed by Palestinian popular and professional organizations in the West Bank, Gaza, Jerusalem, and other occupied Arab territories.

New Revolutionary Movement Issues Statement

LD151732 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Brother Abu Khalid al-'Amlah, one of the leaders of the new revolutionary uprising in Fatah, today announced the formation of a joint leadership for the New Revolutionary Movement in Fatah and the Revolutionary Council, to work for the implementation of the program agreed upon on unity between them. He also announced at a press conference in Tripoli today, at the end of the meetings held from 8 to 13 February, the appointment of the joint leadership for the movement in Fatah and the Revolutionary Council and an official spokesman for the joint leadership.

He read a statement saying that the meetings that were held in Tripoli, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, have enjoyed the attention and support of the leader of the great Fatah revolution and the sons of our Arab people in sister Libya. We are confident that this step constitutes a contribution to bringing the Palestinian revolution back to its natural place, in order to play its role as a revolutionary group at the service of the Arab revolution, for the achievements of its objectives along the road to liberation, unity, and progress.

The statement also said our movement, whose sons have given their lives in order to maintain its unity, [word indistinct] and its authenticity, and its rejection of all the rightist-reactionary ideas which have tried to infiltrate and make it deviate from its line. We are confident that this step will enjoy the support of all the groups of the Palestinian resistance and our Palestinian and Arab masses and their revolutionary and national forces. It will also enjoy the support and backing of the international progressive and nationalist forces.

The statement said that this step will record an important turning point in the organization of our movement and a serious step along the road of building the united national front, for achieving the unity of our people and contributing to the causes of our nation.

Brother Abu Khalid al-'Amlah also announced the following: First, that a joint leadership will be formed consisting of Fatah's two wings, to implement a program agreed on to achieve unity within a maximum period of 4 months from the date of this statement, along the lines of its principles, objectives, and the method of its struggle. Second, that a joint leadership will be appointed for Fatah's two wings, the uprising and the Revolutionary Council. Third, Brother Abu Khalid al-'Amlah has been appointed official spokesman for the joint leadership.

The statement renewed the pledge to the martyrs and those struggling for the freedom of our people inside and outside the occupied homeland and in the prisons of the enemy and those of the agent regimes.

Congratulates Al-Asad

JN181936 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received the following cable from the joint command of the Palestine national liberation movement, Fatah:

Struggler Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic: Greetings of revolution, Arabism, and struggle. On behalf of the joint command of the Fatah movement, we congratulate you on the dear trust that Syrian Arab masses placed in you when they reelected you for a new presidential term, thus expressing the masses' support for your wise leadership, affirming their love and appreciation for your pioneering leading role, and upholding your firm, courageous stand in confronting the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plot aimed at bringing Syria to its knees and dragging it into the arena of bargaining and surrender.

Under your leadership, Syria has been and continues to be the impregnable bastion and firm wall on which all plots have foundered. Syria made immense sacrifices, ignoring the plots concocted against it by the enemies of the people and nation. The renewal of your presidential term came at a stage in which the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught is intensifying, exploiting the treasonous, reactionary leadership represented by 'Arafat, in order to implement its plans; these plans include an alliance with King Husayn as a prelude to generalizing the treasonous Camp David agreements on both the Palestinian and Jordanian levels and signing an agreement of recognition and coexistence with the Zionist enemy with all the inherent threats against the Arab liberation struggle and the moves to strike at Arab revolutionary bases. This situation imposes the need for further cohesion and unity among the Arab revolutionary forces, particularly the Palestinian revolution's original factions, in order to effect a practical confrontation of this deviationist line, which is betraying our people and national causes. Hence the necessity for the joint command of the Fatah movement to reunify the movement on the bases of its principles, aims, and means of struggle; this is a prelude to establishing the united Palestinian national front, which will assume the responsibility of toppling the treasonous leadership, lead and escalate the armed mass struggle, and preserve the gains that our people and revolution have realized over past years.

Under your leadership, Arab Syria will be a bastion for struggle and steadfastness and a base for all Arab strugglers in order to realize Arab cohesion of struggle and strengthen the militant unity of the Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese masses; this is aimed at toppling the Camp David triangle, which is based on the Mubarak-Husayn-'Arafat alliance, and defeating the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary program. The foiling of the 17 May agreement is shining proof of the efficiency of the Syrian-Libyan-Palestinian-Lebanese solidarity as a basis for a comprehensive pan-Arab uprising that would contribute toward uniting the Arab revolutionary forces and bolstering their steadfastness and confrontation of the enemy front.

On this occasion we affirm to Comrade President Hafiz al-Asad our trust and pride in your national and pan-Arab stand. We are certain that the Syrian-Palestinian solidarity of struggle will be further deepened and strengthened and that Syria will offer all means of assistance and support to the Palestinian revolution factions that are determined to continue the revolution until Palestine is liberated by establishing their unity and preserving their national and pan-Arab gains.

Let us struggle to strengthen the Arab revolutionary forces of liberation! Let the joint alliance of struggle expand in order to liberate Palestine and the occupied Arab territories! Revolution until victory!

PFLP Official Praises Relations With Syria

JN161037 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Damascus, 16 Feb (SANA) — Abu 'Ali Mustafa, PFLP deputy secretary general, has declared that relations between the front and Syria are those of struggle, and that they derive strength and continuity from the strength of the current national tasks. The core of these relations is joint confrontation of the U.S.-Zionist plan and its consequences.

In a statement published in *TISHRIN* today, Abu 'Ali expressed confidence in Syria's policy under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in this decisive period in the Arab nation's history.

Abu 'Ali stressed that President al-Asad's leadership has proved its competence in countering Camp David, its supporters, and its consequences. This has made Syria and its national role into a real obstacle for United States and its allies in the area.

Abu 'Ali also stressed that the great national accomplishments the Lebanese people have achieved in the last 2 years through various forms of struggle represent a real victory for the Arab liberation movement and should be considered a practical and serious translation of the Syrian-Palestinian-national Lebanese joint action.

Abu 'Ali added: We in the front stress continuing the struggle against the Zionist enemy and continuing the confrontation of the Jordanian regime's policy and its agreement with 'Arafat, which aims at violating the unity of the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people and, consequently, at liquidating the Palestine question.

PLO Denies Iranian Reports on Tehran Visit

JN181236 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1154 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Tunis, 18 Feb (INA) — The PLO has denied that it has asked the Iranian regime's Embassy in Tunis to allow a PLO delegation to travel to Tehran to participate in the anniversary of Khomeyni's assumption of power. In a statement published by WAFA here today, an authoritative Palestinian source asserted that the PLO has not sent a delegation to participate in this anniversary nor has it approached the Iranian regime's Embassy in Tunis regarding such a thing, which it described as a strange request.

The Palestinian source's statement came after the Iranian regime's media organs, during the past 2 days, carried statements by Iranian officials that Iran rejected the participation of a PLO delegation in this anniversary and that its embassy in Tunis did not allow the delegation to travel to Tehran.

PLO Radio Details Attacks in West Bank

16 February

JN161728 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] In accordance with the revolution command's instructions and decisions to escalate armed struggle inside the occupied homeland, the main arena of struggle, a Palestinian military spokesman has said that our revolutionaries used incendiary bombs to attack a Zionist bus belonging to the Zionist Egged Company carrying Zionist soldiers and settlers on the Khan al-Ahmar-Jerusalem road the day before yesterday. The attack burned the bus, wounding its Zionist soldiers and settlers.

The enemy radio admitted the oepration but, as usual, declined to mention losses. He said that his forces launched an immediate search campaign and arrested a large number of Palestinian citizens on the pretext of having connections with the operation.

PLO Radio Details Attacks in Southern Lebanon

JN171717 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] The Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men have escalated their operations against Zionist occupation forces and personnel in occupied southern Lebanon. A group of Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men used machineguns and rockets to attack a Zionist military patrol moving near the Burj al-Shamali camp near the city of Tyre last night. The attack destroyed one military half-track and damaged another, killing or wounding the personnel.

Another group of resistance men attacked a Zionsit military patrol near the town of Kamid al-Lawz in western Al-Biqa' last night. The attack, which was carried out with machineguns and rockets, destroyed a big Zionist military truck, killing or wounding all its occupants.

Resistance men also detonated high-explosive remote-controlled charges under a Zionist military patrol passing near the town of Majdalyun south of Jazzin yesterday. The explosion destroyed one military vehicle and damaged another, killing or wounding the occupants.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted the three operations but, as usual, declined to mention losses. He said his forces cordoned off the areas of the operations and launched a futile large-scale search-and-arrest campaign for the resistance men.

18 February

JN181731 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] The heroes of the Palestinian and Lebanese joint resistance men set off high-explosive, remote-controlled charges yesterday afternoon while a Zionist military convey was passing near Al-Bazuriyah east of Tyre in occupied southern Lebanon. One Zionist military truck was completely destroyed, another was damaged, and all of their occupants were either killed or wounded in the explosion.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted the operation but claimed that one Zionist soldier was killed and three others were wounded. He said that his forces besieged the area, carried out an extensive search, and arrested a large number of citizens in a vain attempt to capture the resistance men.

Following the Israeli withdrawal from Sidon, Palestinian and Lebanese resistance men liquidated a number of the Israeli enemy's agents and arrested others preparatory to trying them and extending just punishment.

GULF AFFAIRS

Iranian Jets Reportedly Hit Kuwaiti Vessel

GF190446 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 19 Feb 85 p 1, 16

[By David Tucker]

[Excerpt] Iran last night pushed the Gulf sea war zone further south than at any time since the conflict began with an attack on a freighter in neutral waters.

The 32,000 tonne Kuwaiti container vessel *AL-MANAKH* was set ablaze eight miles north of the Abu Kush oilfield halfway between Qatar and Abu Dhabi. Iranian jets struck the vessel with rocket and cannon fire at about 5 pm, according to the ship's owners.

It wasn't clear last night whether there had been any casualties and some reports said the freighter had been abandoned.

Shipping sources in the Gulf said salvage tugs from Bahrain and other ports were sailing at full speed towards the stricken vessel which they expected to reach early today.

"The attack is the furthest south so far in the war," said a Gulf shipping source.

Fire Aboard Container Ship

NC181937 Paris AFP in English 1930 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, Feb 18 (AFP) — A Kuwaiti container ship was attacked and set on fire in the Gulf off Abu Dhabi today, and one crewman has been reported missing, a spokesman for the ship's Kuwaiti owners said here.

The fire aboard the 32,534-tone *Al-Manakh* was now under control, the United Arab Shipping Company spokesman added. He said he could give no further details of the attack or the state of the ship, which had 42 crew aboard, but said the vessel was in need of assistance.

Maritime sources said that the surviving crew, all of whom were believed to be Japanese, had taken to the lifeboats. Salvage tugs were sailing towards the damaged container vessel, the sources added.

(Informed sources in Baghdad said that Iraq was not responsible for the attack.)

KUWAIT

KUNA: Cabinet Holds Meeting 17 February

LD172209 Kuwait KUNA in English 1209 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 17 (KUNA) — In its last meeting before Wednesday's general elections, the cabinet Sunday approved a number of measures to promote economic recovery in the country, Cabinet Secretary 'Abd al-'Aziz al-'Utaybi said.

The measures, which form part of a list of proposals made by a government think-tank on the issue, include the formation of one or more companies to manage the assets of indebted dealers caught up in the 1982 unofficial stock market crash.

Ministers also resolved to speed up measures to clarify the exact financial status and legal position of Kuwaiti closed share companies and Gulf companies involved in the affair. Meanwhile, according to Al-'Utaybi, measures would be taken to help boost the stock market and make it more attractive to buyers. This would be done by encouraging the establishment of professional market-makers, under government supervision, with ministers approving the formation of two companies to this end.

As regards housing, ministers approved directing government policy towards the construction of apartment blocks rather than houses as a means of overcoming the current shortfall and saving public funds. They also resolved to make use of currently vacant units.

The Cabinet delegated to its Economic and Financial Committee the task of following up the implementation of other measures proposed by the Committee on Economic Revival. It also decided to establish an economic advisory council to aid the cabinet in its policymaking decision. Ministers voiced their appreciation of the Economic Revival Committee's work in studying and drafting recommendations and producing its recently-unveiled report on the economy.

Ministers also reviewed the recent round of talks held here with a UAE delegation led by the country's Executive Council president, Crown Prince Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid.

The Cabinet also discussed current Arab developments, including the Israeli withdrawal from part of southern Lebanon, and contacts on latest proposals to resolve the Palestinian question, Al-'Utaybi said without elaborating.

ARAB TIMES on Joint Palestinian-Jordanian Strategy

GF151432 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 14-15 Feb 85 p 8

[Editorial by editor in chief Ahmad Jarallah: "Accepting Today What We Rejected Yesterday"]

[Text] If the current Palestinian-Jordanian joint peace strategy had come a few years ago, the party initiating it would have been accused of betrayal. The former Israeli prime minister, Levi Eshkol, said in his autobiography that the Arabs were skilled at rejecting proposals and then accepting similar ones ten years later. They will turn something down today, then battle each other for rejecting it, but will agree on it tomorrow when it is too late.

The joint strategy announced by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has come too late. It should have come in 1967, after the Arabs were defeated and when King Husayn was told at the Khartoum

Arab summit to recover the West Bank and Gaza Strip in any way he saw fit. King Husayn knew that he would be considered the chief betrayer if the task entrusted to him was not accepted by all Arabs. And this is what happened, until he found himself breaking away from the Palestinian cause.

Such are the Arabs: Their fateful decisions always come too late.

Just as Israel took advantage of the Arab rejection of the Palestinian partition decision, it has taken advantage of the Arab rejection of UN Security Council Resolution No 242, Reagan's blueprint, and for all international peace initiatives since 1967.

We initially rejected such moves and then accepted them, or sometimes even less favourable proposals. A short while after 1948, we demanded that Israel should withdraw completely from Palestine. After 1967 we demanded a withdrawal from land occupied that year, in 1973 we demanded withdrawal from land taken in 1973. Now we demand that Israel withdraw from Lebanon, and we say we want a small state for the Palestinians, because we do not want them to continue as refugees.

Arab political thinking needs a sophisticated touch. Yet those who propose sophisticated views in the Arab world become the whipping boys of Arab politicians who keep shouting until suddenly we are accepting what we rejected yesterday.

QATAR

Mauritanian Minister Delivers Presidential Message

GF161104 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Excerpt] His Highness the Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, has received a written message from Mauritanian President Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Taya dealing with bilateral relations and a number of issues of common interest.

The message was conveyed by Mauritanian Foreign and Cooperation Minister Ahmed Ould Minnih during his meeting with the amir in the amir's office at Al-Dawhah Palace at 1000 today.

Received by State Minister

GF171130 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari state minister for foreign affairs, received today at his office at the ministry Ahmed Ould Minnih, Mauritanian foreign and cooperation minister, who is currently visiting Doha.

During the meeting, they discussed relations between Qatar and Mauritania and the means for promoting them. They also reviewed the current situation in the region.

Departs for Baghdad

GF171830 Doha QNA in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Doha, 17 Feb (QNA) — Mauritanian Foreign and Cooperation Minister Ahmed Ould Minnih left Doha for Baghdad today at the conclusion of a 4-day visit to Qatar.

Reportage on Visit of Singapore Foreign Minister

Arrives 16 Feb

GF161109 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Singapore Foreign Minister Suppiah Dhanabalan arrived today in Doha from Dubayy. He is leading a delegation on a 2-day visit to Qatar.

Received by Amir

GF171135 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Excerpt] His Highness the Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani today received in his office Singapore Foreign Minister Suppian Dhanabalan and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs.

The visiting minister conveyed a verbal message to his highness the amir from Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew dealing with his country's intention to bolster relations between the two friendly countries in all fields, especially the international issues reviewed by the Nonaligned Movement and the United Nations.

His highness the amir asked the great guest to convey his greetings and good wishes to his excellency the Singapore president and friendly people.

Departs Doha 17 Feb

GF180644 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0525 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Doha, 17 Feb (WAKH) — Singapore Foreign Minister Suppiah Dhanabalan left Doha at the conclusion of a 2-day visit to Qatar. During his visit, the Singapore minister met with a number of senior Qatari officials. Bilateral issues and issues of common interest were discussed.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd Returns From U.S. Visit

LD182125 Riyadh SPA in English 1949 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Riyadh, Feb 18, SPA — Hm King Fahd returned home tonight after a visit to the United States. On arrival, he was greeted by Crown Prince 'Abdallah, the deputy premier and commander of the National Guard; Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy premier and defense and aviation minister; Prince Mut'ib ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, public works and housing minister; Prince Badr ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy commander of the National Guard; Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the interior minister; Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of Riyadh; Prince Faysal ibn Fahd, president of the Saudi Youth Welfare Organization; a number of princes, ministers, ulemas (religious scholars), senior military and civil officials, and a large number of citizens.

The monarch left Nice airport in France earlier today, where he was seen off by Prince Muhammad ibn Fahd, deputy interior minister; French Defense Minister Charles Hernu; Saudi Ambassador to France Jamil al-Hujaylan; and members of the Kingdom's embassy staff.

Riyadh: Force Is Only Way To Liberate Arab Lands

LD181536 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Feb 85

['Abd al-Rahman al-Ghamidi commentary]

[Excerpt] Brothers, Sidon city yesterday expressed the unity of the Lebanese. Its liberation showed that force is necessary to liberate the occupied Arab territories. The participation of the Lebanese president, Amin al-Jumayyl, with Sidon's population in their festivities has come as confirmation of the togetherness and unity of the Lebanese people and their legitimate leadership.

The victory in Sidon has confirmed that what has been seized by force can only be recovered by force. This came through the painful blows directed by the national Lebanese resistance against the Zionist occupation forces which left Sidon city and other surrounding villages, dragging its tail of failure and grief. It has also confirmed that the Zionist occupation did not attain any of its objectives, namely the sowing of sedition among the sons of the Lebanese people.

The Lebanese should be aware of their responsibilities and be vigilant for the coming stage. They must consider Israel's withdrawal from Sidon as only the first step toward the complete liberation and the withdrawal of the Zionist enemy from all of Lebanon. This is because the next stage of struggle against the Zionist enemy will be long and bitter.

UAE

Daily Comments on Israeli Withdrawal From Sidon

GF171544 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0630 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 17 Feb (WAM) — In their editorials today, local newspapers agreed that the liberation of Sidon and the victory of its willpower are the first steps toward liberating all Arab territories occupied by the Zionist enemy.

The papers hailed the brave Lebanese national resistance that forced the Zionist enemy to depart with humiliation and escape with fright in the face of its blows. They described the Israeli withdrawal which began yesterday as a national victory for Lebanon and the Arab nation.

In its editorial the newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* said: Congratulations to Sidon and to the south, and congratulations to Lebanon and to the Arabs. It is a step forward on the road to victory filled with mines, tears, and blood. A 1,000-mile journey begins with one step.

The paper said that the enemy's withdrawal from Sidon and its escape with fright in the face of blows from the Lebanese national resistance yesterday is a national victory for a wounded Lebanon that wants to restore its ruptured unity. The paper said that at the same time it is a victory for the Arab nation which wants unity, solidarity, and its rights, which world forces have joined together in order to usurp.

The paper praised the fundamental role played by the Lebanese national resistance in forcing the enemy to withdraw. It said that the resistance has given many lessons, the most significant of which is that for the first time in history a people have liberated the land and handed it over to the regime's army while the liberation heroes remain unknown and secret soldiers who with modesty resume their jihad for liberation in order to rout the enemy. The brave Lebanese resistance also unveiled with modesty that the most successful "medical presciption" for treating Israeli aggression is "a lot of faith, a few arms, a little bit of talk, and a lot of determination for martyrdom, in pursuit of a glorious life in this world and the hereafter."

In conclusion, the paper called for alertness in confronting the enemy and said: "We should not be overwhelmed by the aroma of victory; the eyes should remain open to all the enemy's movements and its silence, because its silence sometimes can be a conspiracy and its withdrawal a preparation for a new aggression."

PDRY

New Prime Minister Addresses People's Council

GF141700 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Feb 85

["Text" of government statement delivered by Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, PDRY prime minister-elect, to members of the Supreme People's Council in Aden 14 February — recorded]

[Text] Dear Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium; comrade members of the Presidium; comrade members of Supreme People's Council:

Allow me, on this momentous occasion, in my name and in the name of my comrades the ministers, to express to you my full gratitude and appreciation of the trust which you have invested in me, by electing me chairman of the PDRY Council of Ministers and also by electing my comrades, the members of the Council of Ministers. I consider my election to this high government post, not merely an honor for me, but a charge and a national and revolutionary duty of which I am very proud, in the service of the supreme interests of our people and country.

I also want to express my full appreciation for this great trust which has been granted to me by the YSP, represented by its political leadership — the Political Bureau — and its Central Committee, and the PDRY's legislative body, the Supreme People's Council. It pleases me to affirm my responsible readiness to assume the functions of this high post in our country and to execute all duties and responsibilities with which I am charged, with all care and sincerity and in accordance with the directions of the YSP and the laws of the Supreme People's Council and the resolutions of the revolution government.

I will exert my best efforts together with my comrades members of the Council of Ministers with whom and through whom we will form a cohesive working team in the cause of accomplishing the great tasks drawn by our party in order to guarantee the growth of our revolution and the progress of our people, and to place our country on the path of economic and social progress. Our people and country are facing grave and major responsibilities on all levels.

From our position, as head of the government, we will work with high efficiency and activity in order to bring about tangible accomplishments of all the tasks listed in the agenda of our party, state and government. We will also work earnestly to overcome all obstacles and problems which hinder the comprehensive growth and development of our country. All the successes possible for our people are subject to bolstering the internal unity of the leadership and to wide popular support.

Comrades, on this venerable occasion it pleases me to express my thanks and appreciation to dear Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, the YSP secretary general and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, who assumed — with great aptitude and competence — the chairmanship of the Council of Ministers for more than 14 years, during which time he made great efforts to build and organize the organs of the state authority and its government institutions, and laid profound conventions for the work and activity of all state organs. Words of gratitude and appreciation are insufficient to describe the constant and ever-new contributions made by dear Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad during his leadership of our revolutionary government. We can say that the comrade secretary general had a great historic responsibility and worked patiently and wisely in leading and organizing the state government system, in addition to his leadership of the party and the state. The mark he has left is evident to those who can see in all fields of our country's and people's political, economic, social, cultural, and military life.

Under his brotherly care, we worked with high spirits and without weariness or boredom; under his creative leadership, we were trained in the school of state leadership and gained the expertise and knowledge necessary for developing our work and activity in the governmental field. The content and form of our work was always characterized by the spirit of collective comradeship. The decisions and orders of the government have always expressed this collective spirit inspired into our conscience and daily practices by dear Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

Though the comrade secretary general, chairman of the Presidium, has left the post as head of government, with all willingness and out of his desire to devote himself to more important and more profound duties in the sphere of leading the party and the state, we will continue to learn from the creative heritage which he has left to us for more than 14 years. We will attempt to benefit by his experience and knowledge and we will lead the future government activity under his patronage and in accordance with his directions as the experienced [mujarrib] chairman of the Council of Ministers, the secretary general of our party, as head of state, and as a revolutionary struggler who is strong and bold, and a wise and creative statesman.

I commend, once again, the prominent and distinguished role played by Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad in constructing the edifice of the national democratic system and his active and effective contributions in building and developing the state's governmental body. We wish dear Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad who is devoting himself entirely to leading the party and state continuing successes and continued good health. [applause]

Comrades, in this exalted place, it must be noted that we will work hard to execute the government's program for 1985 in all fields and in particular we will throw our whole weight to execute the program for the 5th year of the second 5-year plan. At the same time, we will work toward the correct preparation for the third 5-year plan project for economic and social development, whose chief trends will be determined during the third YSP general conference. We will continue our efforts to execute the YSP's resolutions and the directions of the YSP Central Committee in all fields.

The basic function of our work will always be defined by achieving comprehensive economic and social progress for our country, and raising the standard of living [words indistinct] of our people. Parallel to this is the duty of defending the national sovereignty, safeguarding political and economic independence, and bolstering the defense capability of our country.

The government will work in order to guarantee an appropriate standard of living for the masses of our people by effecting a balance between wages and prices and through developing social services in the fields of education, health, [words indistinct], culture, information and transport. The government will also continue the policy of subsidizing prices of strategic commodities from wheat to children's clothing. It will also guarantee the limits of stability in the prices of commodities and in provisions.

In the meantime, we will encourage cooperative and individual producers. The state's farms will also receive great attention and so will the institutions of the public sector. Similarly, we will implement our educational policy so that whoever attains school age will have his place in school. In addition we will expand vocational training, secure academic qualifications, and provide all the requirements of education in accordance with the principles of democratic education. We will also continue the eradication of illiteracy.

In the health field, we will continue the efforts to improve the health situation by developing health services in the cities and in the countryside in accordance with the rule of health for all.

In the field of culture and information, we will continue the efforts to improve the cultural and information services in all material and moral forms, from providing books to expanding television transmissions, and to developing the theater.

The government will continue the efforts to achieve the emergence of the national economy through planning, scientific programming, and utilizing and exploiting all resources and energies, as well as developing them and defining the priorities of economic and social development. Our forthcoming efforts will be concentrated first on completing a modern transport network. This matter is of important political, economic, and social value to the nation.

We will concentrate our efforts to drill for oil and exploit other mineral resources. We will pay utmost attention to utilizing fisheries while at the same time exerting our maximum efforts to develop agriculture in order to provide our elementary needs. There is no doubt that industrialization occupies an important position in our economic policy through the establishment of industrial projects that completely conform with our short- and long-term requirements.

The question of improving the situation of work and developing the economic administration is linked in principle to bolstering the leading role of the party.

Therefore, it is important to work for bolstering and developing the leadership activities of the party's basic organizations in areas of work and production in a manner that will achieve a subjective conformity between the party's political leadership and areas of work and production and the administrative committees of all economic and social organizations with the aim of improving the performance of the administrative institutions and service bodies and carrying out their functions in a positive and fruitful manner.

On the political level, we will work for expanding the participation of the people's masses in administering the affairs of state through local people's councils, popular organizations, and popular control bodies. This means that we will pay particular attention to the question of developing the experiment of local rule, improving the functions of its institutions and organizing its authorities in provinces, directorates, and centers.

We will expand the participation of trade unions in administering the affairs of the national economy, and we will provide a full opportunity for the union of youth to organize the energies of the youth in the process of economic and social development in a fruitful manner. At the same time, we will continue to encourage innovative activities in the fields of sports, science and culture.

We will spare no efforts in helping the union of farmers to play its effective role in bolstering the forms of cooperative farming activities.

We will also consolidate and develop the political and social rights of women and increase their role and influence in various aspects of life. The General Union of Yemeni Women will receive our utmost attention. We will also pay particular attention to strengthening the organization of popular defense committees and other social organizations of engineers, writers, journalists lawyers, doctors and others.

The issue of defending national sovereignty and the national democratic system will be the foremost issue in all our work. The government will pay special attention to strengthening our country's defense capabilities. This means constant work to organize and develop the institutions of security and defense on a modern scientific basis. Connected with all of this is a matter of extreme importance, namely deepening nationalist awareness and sentiment and strengthening faith in the revolution and achieving loyalty to the party. This means primarily dedicating and embodying the Yemeni national character in all our daily thinking and behavior, and connecting that closely with our national [qawmi], international, and human choices. It also means expanding democracy and consolidating constitutional legitimacy and the force of the law.

The problem of security and stability has been man's most preoccupying work since he became aware of life and has been his permanent concern throughout history. The problem of security and stability occupies an important position in our country. During the past years, the revolution's government provided a high level of security and stability in our country, and we will continue the efforts to bolster the state of reassurance, security, and stability in our country, because our primary duty is to achieve prosperity, luxury, and progress for our people and country.

We will sincerely and earnestly work to overcome all defects and negative aspects that might emerge during the activity and functioning of government bodies and institutions. We will also work for bolstering the protection of public property, rewarding all active and talented persons and all those who adopt a conscious and positive stand toward work.

We will continue the unification efforts with our brothers in the northern sector of the homeland in order to reunite our land and people on a correct democratic basis. Within this framework, we will increasingly continue the coordination steps between the two parts and work toward implementing the various fraternal agreements in all fields.

On the Arab level, we will work toward consolidating our country's position in the Arab national liberation movement and in strengthening our relations with the Arab revolutionary progressive groups and also strengthening relations with the Arab nationalist and progressive regimes. At the same time, we will work toward developing our contributions in supporting and aiding the PLO, and also our total support for the cause of the fraternal Palestinian people and their right to repatriation and self-determination and establishing their national state on their Palestinian soil. We will also work to develop our relations with all fraternal Arab countries on the basis of mutual respect and nonintervention in internal affairs and fruitful cooperation within the framework of consolidating anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist Arab solidarity and toward the interest of the progress and development of our Arab peoples, and achieving the hopes and ambitions of nationalism [qawmiyyah] and liberation.

On the regional level, we will take special care to strengthen and develop the relations of friendship and cooperation between our government and the government of socialist Ethiopia.

We will also work steadily to strengthen and consolidate our strategic relations with the governments of the socialist countries, foremost among which is the Soviet Government. Our relations with the socialist countries are based on deep-rooted and fundamental principles, and we will continue to develop and consolidate them in all political, economic, and cultural fields in a way that serves the joint principles and aims for which we struggle by the light of the great ideas of scientific socialism and proleterian internationalism.

We will continue to develop our country's position in the international liberation movement and we will consolidate our support for the struggles of the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, and in particular the peoples of Afghanistan, Indochina, Nicaragua, Salvador, and Chile and also the peoples of Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa.

The policy of our government is steady and unchangeable on the basis of the two principles of international proleterian solidarity, and peaceful co-existence. This means that we will continue our support for the internaitonal working class movement in view of the fact that our country is an integral part of it.

On the other hand, we will work to develop relations of friendship and cooperation with the various countries on the basis of the UN Charter and international law and in the service of the supreme national interests of the Yemeni people. On this occasion, we renew our government's commitment to all UN resolutions and we will continue to work toward expanding the influence of the United Nations and its specialized organizations in international relations.

We will make efforts, together with the governments of the other countries in the world, to lessen the intensity of international tensions, achieve disarmament, end the arms race, achieve nuclear arms reductions, and avoid a nuclear world war in order to ensure peace and stability in the world and guarantee human rights.

We will work for increasing and expanding the role of our country in the Nonaligned Movement during the struggle against imperialism and in the cause of establishing a just international economic system .

The PDRY Government expresses its adherence to all agreements and treaties concluded with fraternal and friendly countries and with regional and international organizations, and considers these agreements and treaties binding and valid with regard to the obligations stemming from them.

In general, we will work for uplifting the reputation of the PDRY and will continue the efforts to continue our role and influence in life and international relations.

The government will pay utmost attention to the situation of Yemenis living abroad and we will take care of and protect their interests in the countries they reside in. We will also guarantee all means for them to return to or visit their country and we will grant them opportunities for work, security and investment for the benefit of developing the national economy.

Comrades, in conclusion I would like to thank you once more for your confidence. We are all hopeful that our council will receive your help and support in order to carry out in the best possible way the tasks entrusted to us. I also urge the comrade ministers to double their efforts and work seriously in order to implement all the plans and programs placed before us by our party and state. Let us march forward in order to achieve prosperity, development, and progress for our people and country, and let us struggle in order to defend the Yemeni revolution, implement the 5-year plan and accomplish the Yemeni unity. [applause]

PDRY Supreme People's Council Concludes Meetings

GF151300 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The Supreme People's Council today concluded the meetings of its 19th session under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium. The council discussed issues that were listed on the council agenda during yesterday's and today's meetings.

Issues Concluding Statement

GF151400 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Feb 85

["Text" of press statement issued at the conclusion of the 19th session of the PDRY Supreme People's Council held from 13-14 February]

[Text] The Supreme People's Council held its routine 19th session 13-14 February 1985 under the chairmanship of Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. The council discussed the issues listed on the agenda which pertain to the various economic issues and the implementation of last year's plans [that were set] by the council, the Presidium, the standing committees, and the activities of the government, in addition to the current Arab and international issues.

During the council's discussion of the assessment report that deals with its working plan for the previous year, with the Presidium, and with the standing committees, it reviewed the progress witnessed by the activities of the council with regard to programming and planning. The council also stressed the importance of developing the role of the committees in addition to reinforcing their role and status in accordance with their duties. The council also endorsed plans for this year, for the Presidium and for the standing committees.

The council reviewed in detail the various political and financial situations in the country and reviewed, in the course of its discussion, what was achieved with regard to the investment plan for the year 1984. The council also reviewed various sectors of the national economy and the standard of economic functioning by a number of the production and service branches. The council also asserted that reinforcing the economic situation is regarded as a basic goal of the various organs. It also indicated that a detailed appraisal of the plans and programs, in addition to learning some lessons from their implementation, will enable these organs to adopt a number of measures which will help the sectors in the field of implementing their duties. This will also eliminate all obstacles that stand in the way of achieving good results, and will implement economic and social development and ameliorate the life of the laboring and the toiling masses materially and spiritually.

The council, in this context, emphasized the need to direct special attention to all mass initiatives and production competitions, in addition to the role of the general union of syndicates, due to its importance in increasing production and ameliorating living conditions.

During its discussion of the plan of the 5th year of the second 5-year plan for economic and social development, the council stressed that all the organs must use various methods, ways, and expertise in order to exploit the financial and human capabilities in a creative way with the aim of implementing this year's plan and undertaking the great event in the life of our people -- the third conference of the YSP with the various political, economic and cultural activities and the various initiatives and propaganda -- in such a way that the conference will represent the masses rallying around the party and the extent of the party's association with the masses.

The council, in this context, urges the popular organizations to reinforce their role in convening the third conference of the YSP and ensuring the success of the second 5-year plan so that their acitivities and initatives are focused on attaining material and moral gains representing their status among the masses and its mushrooming influence and effective role in the construction of the good life for our society.

The council also urged all the organs to compete in the execution of their plans and programs before the set date, to reduce unnecessary expenditures, to develop and exploit their energies and capabilities in order to promote their economic efficiency for overall social production.

On the state budget, the council stressed the need to have the state organs adhere to the regulations and rules defining their activities. The council stressed the need to have the government adopt a number of measures that restrict unnecessary expenditures and to increase revenues.

The council also saluted all the efforts made by the planning and financial insitutions to improve their performance in a manner that takes into consideration the economic and financial circumstances and the aspects and events of growth in various fields. The council highly valued the government's efforts during the past year and the accomplishments made in the various branches of the national economy.

The council viewed with satisfaction the assessment report on the comprehensive national campaign for obliterating illiteracy and educating the elderly which started during the second half of last year. The council highly valued the efforts and activities exerted by the party, people and government in order to bring about the success of the campaign, and warmly saluted those who helped to overcome illiteracy -- the pioneers, instructors, supervisors, and leaders of this national task. The council proudly recorded its appreciation for the contributions of the popular organizations and the masses who participated in promoting the success of the campaign with fine support and with national zeal, and who expressed their support for the YSP and their readiness to carry out the struggle tasks assigned to them.

Due to the importance of pursuing education by those liberated from illiteracy and of eliminating the remaining pockets of illiteracy, the council approved a quick adoption of the practical steps necessary for formulating plans and programs to consolidate the system of educating the elderly. The council tasked the government with adopting the necessary measures and steps in this regard.

Concerning coordination between the two sides of the homeland, the council, in reviewing the results of the meetings, contacts and unification agreements, expressed satisfaction at the daily results achieved by our people for progress and unity, which effectively contributed to providing security and stability for our people, eradicating the conspiracies plotted against our people's progress and against their unity and sovereignty, and creating greater opportunities for adopting additional measures and agreements that resulted in developing the economic and social life of the masses of our Yemeni people.

The council highly valued all the results achieved in San'a', Aden, and Ta'izz, and the efforts exerted by Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in this respect on the basis of the national interest of our Yemeni people and in implementation of the targets and principles of the 26 September and 14 October Revolutions. In this regard, the council stressed the primary importance of continuing the implementation of all that was agreed upon in a practical and constructive manner, and stressed that all means would be sought in order to bolster these important unification steps.

Reviewing the current Arab situation, the council stressed the importance of the communique of the YSP Central Committee's recent session with regard to the situation in our region and the dangers of the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war, the importance of security and stability for the peoples of the region, the importance of our fateful pan-Arab questions, particularly the struggle of the Arab Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, the continuation of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, the Zionist expansionist policy, and the conspiracies plotted against our Arab peoples by imperialism and Zionism, particularly those plotted against the progressive fraternal Arab regimes. The council affirmed that our country will adhere to its principled position in support of the Arab liberation struggle and any Arab effort aimed at creating an Arab solidarity against imperialism and Zionism.

In this regard, the council warmly welcomed the 15th meeting of the congress of the Arab Parliamentary Union in Aden this month. Our country will do its best, together with our brothers, to bring about the success of the meeting in order to serve our national and pan-Arab questions.

After considering the situation on the international arena, the council affirmed the contents of the political report presented by Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to the council session and highly valued the success of our country's foreign policy and its stances toward various developments. The council expressed its appreciation for the results of the visits made by Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, in the period between the two sessions of the council, to the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, DPRK, GDR, and Poland. These visits contribute effectively toward strengthening our country's relations with these friendly countries within the framework of common principles and events, in the struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and racism, and for the victory of freedom, progress, socialism, and peace in the world.

Concerning the interests of our friendly peoples, these visits consolidate friendship ties with these countries and widen the scopes of bilateral cooperation in various fields. Our current year will be witnessing an important international event: the 12th international youth and student festival, scheduled to be held in Moscow this summer. The Supreme People's Council hails the abundant appreciation expressed by the democratic youth in various parts of the world in anticipation of the festival. The council paid tribute to the Yemeni youth dedicated to preparing for this festival and called on our country's youth, all state organs, and popular organizations to work toward rendering successful the program of the festival preparation committee.

The council stressed the importance of exerting various efforts toward the success of the activities of the national preparatory committee for the international youth year 1985 to achieve the general motto approved by the United Nations: "Participation, Development, and Peace."

During the session, Comrade Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas was elected a member of the Supreme People's Council Presidium. The council dwelt on the facts and justifications contained in the speech by Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad on his resignation from government leadership. The speech included the requirement for electing a devoted chairman to the council of ministers and the importance of his dedication to the leadership of the party and the state because of the escalating political, economic, social, and cultural responsibilities.

The council accepted his resignation and paid tribute to the prominent role he played during the past 14 years as the government leader and his great contribution toward organizing the governmental authority organs and laying sound foundations for their bodies and institutions in the political, economic, cultural, social, and military fields. The council emphasized the importance of continuing the traditions which have been established within the government under Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad during his reign of 14 years and benefiting from his experience and knowledge.

In the name of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad nominated Comrade Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and member of the Presidium, as chairman of the Council of Ministers. The nomination was approved and he was unanimously elected chairman of the Council of Ministers. For his part, Comrade Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas proposed the names of new government members who were unanimously elected in a democratic spirit.

Comrade Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau, member of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and his new cabinet members were sworn in under oath before the Supreme People's Council. The council expressed confidence in the new cabinet under Comrade Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas in carrying out its tasks responsibly and efficiently.

In the name of the government, the chairman of the Council of Ministers expressed his esteem for the chairman and members of the council for the trust bestowed upon him and his cabinet members. He stressed that he will exert his utmost efforts to bear the responsibilities he has been given.

The council affirmed a number of laws, resolutions, and decrees issued between the two sessions.

14 OCTOBER Hails YSP, People's Council Sessions

GF151720 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The newspaper *14 OCTOBER* has hailed the results of the recent sessions of the YSP Central Committee and the Supreme People's Council. In its weekly editorial published in today's issue, *14 OCTOBER* says that the new government has been formed to continue strengthening economic, social, and political developments which the country has witnessed and the successes achieved in the course of implementing the development plans during the last few years. The new government has also been formed because of an increase in the size of investments and the expansion and development of the state organs, executive authority, and their institutions.

The paper attributed all these achievements to the great efforts and prominent role of the struggling comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, in building and consolidating the executive authority and its institutions during more than 14 years of bearing the responsibility as head of the executive authority, as the chairman of the Council of Ministers, as well as his huge responsibilities in leading the party and the state.

Prime Minister Receives Soviet Congratulations

GF161622 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Feb 85

["Text" of congratulatory cable received by Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau, member of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, from the USSR Council of Ministers on his new appointment — date not given]

[Text] Comrade Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, please accept our sincere and warm congratulations on the occasion of your election as the chairman of the PDRY Council of Ministers. We are confident that the friendly relations between the USSR and the PDRY will continue to develop for the welfare of our countries and peoples and for the interests of the struggle to achieve a just and comprehensive solution in the Middle East and in order to bolster international peace and security.

We wish you health and great success in your performance at this high post.

Responds to USSR Cable

GF171524 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Feb 85

["Text" of cable sent by Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau, member of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to Nikolay Tikhonov, member of the CPSU Politburo, and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and to members of the USSR Council of Ministers — date not given]

[Text] I have warmly received your congratulatory cable on my election as chairman of the Council of Ministers. Allow me to express my great gratitude and appreciation for your kind salute.

I would like to affirm that we will continue our intensive efforts to develop relations of friendship and cooperation between the governments of our peoples, relying on the solid principles of the friendship and cooperation treaty.

We will make full effort to consolidate this relationship in all fields for the welfare and progress of our peoples and governments and to strengthen the anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist and antireactionary struggle of the Arab national liberation movement and for the sake of achieving a comprehensive and just settlement in the Middle East, primarily the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Arab Palestinian people to return to their homeland and to establish an independent state on their national soil, toward consolidating world peace and security and preventing the use of force in international relations, and avoiding the danger of a nuclear catastrophe.

I wish you good health and continued successes toward building a new society free from oppression and exploitation.

Meets With USSR Ambassador

GF181502 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received in his office today Comrade Vladislav Zhukov, the USSR minister plenipotentiary and ambassador extraordinary in Aden.

During the meeting, the ambassador extended his warm personal congratulations and his government's congratulations to Brother al-'Attas on his election as chairman of the Council of Ministers. They reviewed the development of relations between the PDRY and the USSR Governments. The Soviet ambassador emphasized that economic cooperation between the two countries occupies a prominent place in the relations between them and that strengthening the PDRY's economic capabilities is considered the basis of friendship and cooperation between the two governments.

On his part, the brother chairman of the Council of Ministers thanked the Soviet ambassador for his personal congratulations. He asked him to convey his gratitude and thanks to the Soviet Government for its warm congratulations on his election as chairman of the Council of Ministers. He noted that the PDRY Government will continue to consolidate and solidify the multisided relations with the Soviet Government. He highly evaluated the aid the USSR extends to strengthen our country's economic structure.

In conclusion, Brother al-'Attas asked the comrade ambassador to convey his warm greetings to Comrade Nikolay Tikhonov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and to the Council of Ministers. He wished the Soviet people more success.

Receives Bulgarian Cable

GF171732 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Feb 85

["Text" of congratulatory cable from Grisha Filipov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau, member of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, on his new appointment — date not given]

[Text]On the occasion of your election as chairman of the PDRY Council of Ministers, I send you my heartiest greetings and wishes for success in your lofty and responsible work.

We are confident that the comradely relations between our countries which are based on the principles of friendship and cooperation between the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the PDRY will develop and expand for the good of the two friendly peoples and for the good of world peace, security, and social progress.

I take this opportunity to wish you good health and happiness, and success and prosperity for the fraternal people of the PDRY and more successes in building a new society.

Replies to Bulgarian Cable

GF181422 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Feb 85

["Text" of cable from Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to Grisha Filipov, Bulgarian chairman of the Council of Ministers, in response to congratulatory cable — date not given]

[Text] I deeply thank you for your congratulatory cable on my election as chairman of the Council of Ministers. On this occasion, please allow me to reiterate that we will continue to strengthen and further the friendship and cooperation relations in various fields between the governments and parties of our countries on the bases of the friendship and cooperation treaty in order to achieve progress and prosperity for our peoples.

At the same time, we will continue to make efforts for the sake of world peace and security and to expand cooperation among peace- and social progress-loving countries. I wish you good health and continued success in your job and the friendly Bulgarian people more progress and prosperity.

Chairman 'Ali Receives Bulgarian Delegation

GF181610 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, received today the delegation of the Bulgarian-PDRY Friendship Society, led by Comrade Georgiev, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] Central Committee and chairman of the society. He conveyed to the brother secretary general a verbal message from Comrade Todor Zhivkov, secretary general of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the State Council.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed a number of issues concerning relations between the two friendly parties and countries, means of strengthening them in various fields, and means of strengthening relations of close friendship linking our Yemeni people with the friendly Bulgarian people.

The meeting was attended by Brother Anis Hasan Yahya, member of the Political Bureau, secretary of the YSP Central Committee, and chairman of the PDRY-Bulgarian Friendship Society.

DFLP's Al-Hawatimah Arrives in Aden 15 Feb

GF151716 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the DFLP, arrived in Aden today, on a visit to the PDRY that will last several days. In a statement to ANA, Brother Al-Hawatimah said that his visit has come in response to an invitation from the YSP Central Committee to hold discussions toward broadening and deepening relations between the DFLP and the party and state leaders in the PDRY. He added that this invitation has come in response to all the recent serious developments on the Palestinian and Arab arenas, especially since the PNC session in Amman.

Clandestine Radio Views Changes in Leadership

GF181700 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Sons of Yemeni South in Arabic 1315 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Commentary: "What Is Behind This New Planning?"]

[Text] Without doubt, the changes which have taken place in the internal and external policy of the ruling Marxist regime in South Yemen is a certain indication that this regime was planted in the heart of the Arab homeland in order to be a harmful thorn and an agent that executes the political and military aims of the foreign powers from which it takes its orders.

Not long ago one of the leaders of this regime said that his country's experience in establishing a party committed to international socialism must be applied in other countries in the Arab world. This wish is not so much a wish of these rulers as it is a wish of world communism. This statement by the leadership of the regime means that they are charged with spreading foreign thought in the ranks of our Arab and Islamic nation.

The special schools which have been established with the help of the USSR to teach this thought to young men constitute clear proof that the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf region have become a target for such people and for world communism. The political and military strategic alliance between the USSR and the South Yemeni regime serves far-reaching aims. The leaders of the regime themselves admit this alliance in all their statements.

The present circumstances in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula, and the preparations which are being made by the two superpowers, compel each of them to strengthen their relations with their allies. For this reason, when the USSR strengthens its alliance with Yemen in an attempt to emphasize that it has a role in the region, it is a clear matter to all the region's countries.

The Soviets have established links between each of their allies. There is an alliance relationship between the collaborating regime in Afghanistan and the collaborating regime in South Yemen and the collaborating regime in Ethiopia. These three countries constitute a basic axis for Soviet strategy in the Arabian Gulf region.

The USSR has begun to reassess its tactics in the region. Observers have noted the changes which recently have taken place in South Yemen and which have brought back the extremist elements to the position of political decisionmaking and the subsequent return of 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, who is known for his extremism and his excessive collaboration with the Soviet Union. In addition, during the recent visit to Moscow by the Kuwaiti defense minister, the USSR declared that it was ready to sell arms to the Arabian Gulf countries.

These indications are further proof that the changes which have taken place within the political leadership in South Yemen coincide with the change in Soviet tactics in the region. It is possible that South Yemen will play a new role in these tactics, with the return of 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il and his assumption of the party leadership in the country [wa tasallumihi liqiyadat al hizb fi al-bilad], considering that he is the man for the present stage within the new Soviet scheme.

YAR

PDRY Minister Arrives With Message for President

GF171250 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Brother Mahmud 'Ushaysh, minister of state for unity affairs in the southern part of our homeland, arrived in Sanaa at noon today on a visit to the capital Sanaa.

In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, he said that he carries a written message for Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from his brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, on coordination and cooperation between the two sides of the homeland.

He was received by Brother Yahya al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs; and Muhammad al-'Ammari, director of the Unity Affairs Office.

Received by President

GF171742 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received this evening Brother Mahmud 'Abdallah 'Ushaysh, minister of state for unity affairs in the southern part of our homeland, who delivered to the brother president and secretary general a message from his brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, on the progress of coordination steps between the two sides in various fields and on developments in the Arab arena.

The meeting was attended by Brothers Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee; and Yahya al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs.

Departs 18 Feb

GF181758 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Brother Mahmud 'Abdallah 'Ushaysh, minister of state for unity affairs in the southern part of our homeland, left Sanaa tonight.

In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, Brother Mahmud 'Ushaysh said that he is carrying a reciprocal message from Brother President and Secretary General Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to his brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

At the conclusion of his statement, he said that the purpose of his visit to Sanaa was to hold talks with his counterpart, Brother Yahya al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs, on the start of the meetings of the various unity committees due to begin in a few days.

He was seen off by Brother Yahya al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs; and Brother Muhammad al-'Ammari, director of the Unity Affairs Office.

Mubarak Discusses Jordan-PLO Agreement, U.S. Visit

NC171521 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak said that if the first phase of Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon is successfully completed, it would be considered a good step on the Israelis' part, and a reflection of their goodwill toward the Arabs and toward themselves, particularly if they withdraw to their international border with Lebanon. President Mubarak made this remark while replying to questions from Egyptian and foreign journalists after his meetings in Al-Qubbah Palace today. He was asked to comment on the first stage of Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon.

President Mubarak was asked about his recent statement expressing dissatisfaction with the attitude of the Israeli Government under Shim'on Peres. Mubarak answered: I said that when Peres expressed his dissatisfaction with the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. My response was that I was dissatisfied with the Israeli Government's position.

Asked whether he was satisfied with Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, Mubarak said: The best thing they can do is withdraw completely from Lebanon and return to their international borders. They should also take some action on the Palestinian problem. This is particularly true now that 'Arafat has agreed to coordinate with Jordan's King Husayn. In my opinion, that was a great step forward in terms of peace.

When asked whether he thinks Israel would agree to a peace initiative based on the recent Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, Mubarak said: I cannot say that I am certain, but I will do all I can. The situation in the Middle East would be greatly improved if this initiative got off the ground.

Mubarak was asked when the contents of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement will be announced, and whether they were still secret. He said: You will have to ask the Palestinians or the Jordanians.

Mubarak also said that the second round of the Tabah talks will take place soon, but that a date has not yet been fixed.

As to whether he will present a united Arab position to U.S. President Ronald Reagan during his upcoming visit to the United States, President Mubarak said: I am trying, but I cannot tell you exactly what will happen before my visit. At this point, President Mubarak expressed hope that something would surface before his visit to the United States, and that he and President Reagan would be able to find solutions to problems in the Middle East, and would discover ways of dealing with them.

President Mubarak was also asked about the U.S.-USSR talks on the Middle East, scheduled to begin in Vienna on Thursday. The United States has declared its opposition to an international peace conference, while the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement demands one. The president was asked if this contradiction can be resolved. He said: It can be resolved if it is thoroughly thought out, but I cannot give you any details. At this point, President Mubarak reaffirmed that Egypt would agree to holding an international conference if all parties concerned consented. In the absence of such agreement, the president said, I do not know how we will approach this.

If the U.S. attitude toward the international conference remains unchanged, Mubarak was asked, will this not force Jordan and the PLO to work out a new position? Mubarak answered: This is a problem we can negotiate with the United States.

President Mubarak declined to comment on, or give any details about the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue. He said: It is up to Jordan and the PLO to discuss this agreement. The last question put to President Mubarak concerned his possible plans to reshuffle the cabinet in light of the recent economic decisions. He stressed that he has no such plans.

Mubarak Chairs NDP Meeting, Outlines Policies

NC182033 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak chaired a meeting of the NDP Political Bureau at Al-Qubbah Palace today. According to Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, President Mubarak used the meeting to brief NDP leaders on Egypt's foreign and domestic initiatives.

Speaking on international issues, the president explained the aims of his trip to the United States, France, and the United Kingdom, which is scheduled for the second week of March, Al-Sharif said.

The president, Al-Sharif added, detailed the economic and political topics to be discussed during his tour. At this point, the president touched on the Middle East problem in light of recent developments concerning the Tabah issue, the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, the Lebanese situation, inter-Arab relations, and the ongoing contacts between Egypt and its Arab brothers to coordinate their positions on various Arab matters.

The information minister noted that President Mubarak also discussed Egyptian-Jordanian coordination, with special emphasis on questions concerning the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and the Palestinian issue. The president also elaborated on each Arab peace initiative, particularly stressing their viability, since this is no time for peddling slogans at the Palestinian people's expense. At this point, President Mubarak said Egypt is using its weight and influence to support and promote the Palestinian issue.

According to Al-Sharif, President Mubarak stressed the fact that Egypt's moves, both at home and abroad, serve the Egyptian people's supreme interests, and boost development efforts and the democratic atmosphere.

President Mubarak also listened to plans for the next legislative session, and to draft bills that the government will submit to the People's Assembly during its current session.

Finally, President Mubarak noted his visits to production sites, and stressed the need for practical solutions and field visits by officials.

Mubarak Reacts to Suspension of U.S. Aid to Sudan

NC181657 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak said Egypt will urge the United States not to suspend or delay its aid to Sudan. Mubarak was replying to a journalist's request for comment on the news that the United States has stopped its economic aid, running at $200 million, to Sudan.

President Mubarak said he had just heard this news, and that he will discuss this issue during his visit to Washington.

Commenting on his meeting in Aswan last week with Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, the president said they discussed the existence of problems between the United States and Sudan. Such problems, Mubarak added, are quite simple and can be easily resolved.

President Mubarak also said that Sudan has a special character, which no one besides President Numayri can understand. Mubarak noted that President Numayri is constantly correcting his economic policies. He lifted all kinds of subsidies on bread and other goods and this is why we should help him, Mubarak said.

The president repeated that it would be a mistake to stop aid to Sudan. He added: The Americans live some 3,000 km from Sudan. How can they understand the situation there? President Mubarak made these remarks after a meeting of the NDP Political Bureau today.

'Abd Al-Majid Comments on U.S., Palestinian Roles

NC181435 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Beirut, 18 Feb (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that the U.S. role in resolving the Middle East crisis is pivotal and that Egypt will try to explore its potential during President Mubarak's visit to Washington next month.

During an interview with the Lebanese weekly *AL-SAYYAD*, which will appear in its 20 February edition, the foreign minister noted that the United States is the only country that can influence Israel — not by pressure, but by persuading it that peace is beneficial and that its invasion of Lebanon and practices in the occupied territories promote neither peace nor stability. Israel, 'Abd al-Majid said, is actually beginning to understand these facts.

The United States, the foreign minister added, is still playing its role as a full partner in the peace process. The strong relations that the United States has with Israel do not pose an insurmountable obstacle. The Arab countries should face this situation by uniting, formulating one stand, and presenting the U.S. Administration with this fait accompli.

'Abd al-Majid renewed Egypt's refusal to replace the Jordanians or Palestinians in any negotiations involved in solving the region's crisis. All the parties concerned should take part, he said, including Israel and the PLO.

It is urgent to start a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, and we are working for this event. Such a dialogue would be a substantial step toward finding a solution if a common ground can be found between the U.S. and Palestinian positions, 'Abd al-Majid said.

The foreign minister stressed that Egypt supports the Jordanian-PLO agreement and wants it to materialize. Egypt is continually trying to get the Palestinians to accept what King Husayn of Jordan advocates: namely, trading peace for land, which is the inherent idea of UN Security Council Resolution 242. The Palestinian side, however, still has reservations about this resolution because it does not speak about Palestinian rights in the proper manner. Egypt, 'Abd al-Majid said, believes the Palestinians are right in their reservations.

Commenting on Egyptian-Soviet relations, 'Abd al-Majid said that they are normal, cordial, and based on mutual respect. The two countries are not having any problems, especially since their policies frequently coincide.

Italy's Pertini, Andreotti Conduct Official Visit

Arrive in Cairo

[Editorial Report] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1250 on 16 February broadcasts a live or recorded 12-minute relay on the arrival of Italian President Sandro Pertini at Al-Qubbah Palace in Cairo where he is accorded an official welcome, headed by President Husni Mubarak. The announcer says that as the leaders arrive at the palace the two countries' national anthems are played; after this, the two presidents inspect the guard of honor. The Italian president then greets the officials welcoming him, including the prime minister, the speakers of the Consultative Council and the People's Assembly, a large number of ministers, members of the Italian Embassy staff, and the Egyptian ambassador to Italy. Afterwards, the two presidents enter the palace. The announcer adds that President Pertini's visit will last 4 days.

Mubarak Views Jordan-PLO Accord

NC161543 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak said that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement is a good step forward to start negotiations, but that additional steps are needed. We are doing our utmost to ensure this.

This came in President Mubarak's response to questions from Italian journalists at the end of the official welcoming ceremony for Italian President Sandro Pertini, and after President Mubarak accompanied his excellency to Al-Qubbah Palace for a short rest.

Answering a question on Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' description of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement as a step, but not enough to start negotiations, President Mubarak said: I believe we understand each other well. I believe that the agreement is a good step forward.

Replying to a question on whether the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement will be enough to convince President Ronald Reagan to involve the United States in the peace process, the President said: I cannot promise that. I will do my utmost, since I believe the Palestinians were wise to coordinate with Jordan's King Husayn.

Answering a question on the Syrian position, which seeks to hinder this agreement, and on whether the moderate Arab bloc can stand up to it, President Mubarak said: The Syrians' decision is their own. I do not interfere. They can decide what is best for them, while we decide what we see as best for the peace process as a whole.

Answering a question on King Husayn's upcoming visit to Egypt, President Mubarak noted that the Jordanian monarch will be coming to Cairo soon. Responding to a question on whether PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will visit Cairo, President Mubarak said: I have no information on that.

Pertini Meets Mubarak

AU161950 Rome ANSA in English 1940 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] (ANSA) Cairo, February 16 — The role played by Italy for greater unity in the Arab world was discussed today by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in greeting Italian head of state Sandro Pertini upon his arrival to begin a four-day visit to Egypt.

Pertini was met at the Cairo International Airport in the afternoon by Prime Minister Hasan 'Ali and was taken by helicopter to the Egyptian president's official residence at Al-Qubbah where he met Mubarak.

During their encounter, the Egyptian president described the Jordanian-Palestinian understanding recently reached as "an important step ahead which, according to us, will be very useful for opening the path to peace negotiations", an echo of remarks delivered by King Husay of Jordan and Palestine Liberation Organization Leader Yasir 'Arafat who said the development should prepare the way for negotiations with Israel on the basis of an exchange of "peace for occupied territory".

Pertini told Mubarak that the Italian Government intends to work within the European Community and on its own behalf for favoring the premises for dialogue, the final objectives of which must be respect for the rights of the Palestinian people and the reciprocal recognition between the PLO and Israel.

After recalling his statements in favor of the PLO and his meeting with 'Arafat in Rome in 1982, the Italian president cautioned: "But to reach this goal it's indispensable for the Palestinians to be capable of achieving unity, that there be an end to the factions which are the major obstacle to this unity".

Mubarak, in remarks to Italian newsmen travelling with Pertini, said he thought the Jordanian-Palestinian understanding might encourage United States President Ronald Reagan to increase the involvement of the U.S. in the Mideast peace process.

"As far as I am concerned," the Egyptian president continued, "during the visit to the U.S. I will conduct in the near future, I will do my best to explain the situation to Reagan and get his support".

Referring to Syrian hostility to the path towards negotiations embarked on by the Arab moderates, Mubarak said: "The Syrian position doesn't concern me. We are certain of our choice and we will go ahead".

He also confirmed that King Husayn is scheduled to come to Cairo in the near future and said he did not know if 'Arafat intended to make the trip.

This evening, the Italian president, who is accompanied by Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, will be guest of honor at a dinner given by the Egyptian head of state.

Mubarak Makes Banquet Speech

NC212141 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on 16 February at a dinner held in honor of Italian President Sandro Pertini; place not given — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. My Dear friend President Sandro Pertini and other dear friends: I am pleased to welcome you today on Egyptian soil in the name of its people; the Egyptian people are very proud of the close ties that link them to Italy and its noble people, who possess a fine, civilized heritage and have produced glory and progress for thousands of years. Fate has commanded that our two peoples contribute to the development of human civilization throughout history's various stages, and that each of them write immortal chapters in the annals of mankind's accomplishments.

After the ancient Egyptians pushed human society far forward by developing the concept of division of labor, inventing a system for agriculture, smelting, and writing, and understanding the secrets of the cosmos by deeply studying astrology, mathematics, and medical science, the builders of the great Roman civilization came to provide a great addition to this edifice. Their contribution is represented by the development of advanced legal systems and by the elevation of arts and literature. Through these great achievements, man was able to reach the threshold of modern civilization and view the sources of the scientific and technological revolution that has changed the course of history.

Our two peoples have long realized that nations cannot live in isolation or block the way of creative interaction and the exchange of ideas and benefits. The Mediterranean has thus become an artery of life, a means of communication among the region's various peoples, and a lake on whose banks interests meet and over which the flags of peace, justice, and freedom are raised.

It is, therefore, natural to view our relations with Italy in a special way. Our outlook is based on our joint historical heritage, similar interests, and location in the same region. It takes note of our two peoples' special responsibility to establish bridges of cooperation between the Arab and Islamic countries and the European Community in various political, economic, and cultural fields. We are also very proud of President Pertini, and the significant services he rendered to his country and to the cause of cooperation among nations and peoples. He has devoted himself and given much of his effort and thought to the sublime principles and ideals in which he believes. He has not hesitated to fight along the path of right and justice. Moreover, he is a great friend of Egypt, who has expressed his sincere feelings toward this country and its people under all circumstances. He was in the vanguard of those who came to this people and stood by them during their joys and sorrows. Thus, he is a good son of an ancient civilization.

We recall President Pertini's great interest in the Middle East problem, and his clear realization that its essence lies in the Palestinian question. We also note his call for a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of recognizing the Palestinian people's right to determine their fate and future like all others. He also seeks the establishment of relations among the region's peoples on the basis of good-neighborliness and cooperation based on free choice and mutual interests.

Dear friends. I was very pleased by my many meetings with President Pertini, Prime Minister Signor Craxi, and Foreign Minister Signor Andreotti, who is accompanying the president on this visit. The last of these meetings took place in the noble Italian capital last month. We discussed the need to take those steps that would motivatepeace before it is too late. The focal point of our talks was the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, and our desire to allow the Arabs to take the first step that would confront the other parties with their responsibilities and provide an opportunity to stage a demanding test of intentions and clearly define all positions. All of these are fundamental prerequisites for the peace process.

Your visit, Your Excellency the president, comes at a time when Jordan and the PLO have reached agreement on a joint program for moving along the path to peace. This is a positive and courageous step that rises to the level of historic responsibility, since it confirms the sincerity of the Arab movement toward peace. It provides a golden opportunity to uproot the conflict and to put the region on the threshold of a new era of brotherhood, coexistence, and magnanimity.

It is up to Israel to absorb the meaning of this great step and to differentiate between the fundamental questions necessary to resume the peace process, and those marginal matters that could be the subject of talks and discussions at the negotiating table. If Israel fails to respond to this step, and if it continues to repeat the worn-out slogans of rejection, it will have committed a historic mistake, and must bear the responsibility for it in the eyes of future generations.

We are confident that the European Community will build on this step, and will exploit it in its coming meetings. It will thus be able to give the Venice declaration and the Dublin statement a new and practical meaning that requires a more active and effective European role. This is the contract ['iqd] we have agreed upon, and the responsibility that we jointly assume. We have no choice but to carry it out.

Dear friends. Allow me to ask you to stand and greet our dear friend, President Sandro Pertini, all our friends present here, the noble Italian people, and the close friendship between our two countries and peoples. May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Pertini Speaks at Banquet

NC162224 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2009 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Report on 16 February speech by Italian President Sandro Pertini at a dinner hosted in his honor by President Husni Mubarak]

[Text] Mr President and dear friend: I was deeply grateful for the friendly words you addressed to my country and to me personally. I will never forget the warm friendship you expressed through the lavish reception accorded us by the Egyptian people.

The president added: This was my first chance to realize a long-cherished wish to come to know your legendary country and to see the noble and ancient virtures of its people at first hand.

The Italian president continued: Egypt is one of the mothers of the world. Its history is thousands of years old. Its past is considered man's past. He added: Religion, philosophy, arts, science, technology, ethics, law, and politics first appeared in Egypt. Writing, literature, fine arts, agriculture, astrology, medicine, chemistry, and other applied and theoretical sciences, which are now being fully exploited by the advanced states, also appeared first in Egypt.

Mr President: The exchange of knowledge between Egypt and Italy dates back thousands of years. There is no need to mention the debt that Roman and Greek civilizations, the predecessors of Italian civilization, owe to your civilization. I also do not need to mention the parallel paths these two historic civilizations followed. The two countries' proximity, in terms of geography and sea, eventually became a historical proximity . Since 1952, when the Free Officers movement erupted, until today, contacts have been held at the highest levels. They are tangible proof of the strength and depth of our bilateral relations.

The Italian president added: Egypt's role in efforts to establish peace has assumed great dimensions and continues to grow. Europe, and Italy in particular, which have no rivals in their aspiration for world peace, are following Egypt's efforts with extreme interest and sincere support.

The Italian president continued: Three problems remain unresolved, and they are becoming more complex. These are the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Lebanese crisis, and the Iraq-Iran war. He added: We now look with great hope on the important signs of development that recently began appearing in the Middle East after a long period of stagnation. We are very hopeful that these signs will grow, and will soon become important developments.

President Pertini also said: It was through the visits that Italian Government representatives paid to various Arab capitals, and the meeting held with the PLO chairman in Tunis, that we were able to arrive at the current situation with all its aspects and factors. Europe, and particularly Italy, which is currently the EC president, is aware of its responsibility in this regard. Our position is known through the 1980 Venice declaration, which remains valid.

We ask that the right of existence be applied to all countries, and seek justice for the region's people, particularly the Palestinian people, whose right to self-determination in complete freedom must be recognized. We believe that reciprocal recognition between the PLO and Israel is necessary to overcome the obstacles that have thus far impeded a direct dialogue for a peaceful solution among the parties concerned.

The Italian president said: Wounded Lebanon is looking for peace and unity, and cannot achieve them. Moreover, the Gulf war is exhausting the entire region, and appropriate solutions must be found for it.

President Pertini added: We appreciate the balanced efforts Your Excellency is making within the framework of the OAU, as well as your efforts on a bilateral level with African states in connection with the tension on the African Continent and particularly in the Horn of Africa.

President Pertini noted: Our countries are fully aware of the danger, and we must unite our efforts for peace, disarmament, development, and for fighting hunger throughout the world.

Your Excellency Mr President: Egypt, which showed courage in war, has shown a similar, more difficult courage for peace. When I say this, Mr President, I mean you in particular, because you, with Egypt's brave Army, showed courage and military spirit in the 1973 war. You are now weaving the complicated fabric of peace with practicality and firmness. When conscience is reassured, the peace of the strong must also be that of the just, with neither victor nor vanquished. It must also respect the historic right to a life on one's native soil and provide guaranteed safety and dignity for all peoples. In an area such as this, which has been the cradle of civilization, this must be achieved in the end.

I close my speech with these well-known words: If Egypt's inspiration today is peace, as it was in the distant past, then peace will be its destiny.

Talks Begin

NC170843 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0824 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) — Presidents Husni Mubarak and Sandro Pertini held a closed session of talks at the Al-Qubbah Presidential Palace this morning. The talks deal with the role that the European states can play in solving the Middle East problem in light of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. The talks also deal with the peace efforts and with the means to activate the European role in achieving a comprehensive settlement.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian and Italian delegations held a session of talks.

Ministers Hold Press Conference

NC171837 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said the talks between Egypt and Italy were comprehensive, and dealt with the situation in the Middle East. He added that the Egyptians briefed the Italians on recent developments in the Palestinian issue, and said that both sides hold identical views on these events.

This came in a joint news conference held by Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid and his Italian counterpart, Guilio Andreotti, after 2 hours of talks today.

The members of the Egyptian and Italian delegations joined the private talks between the two presidents, which ran for approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes.

At the beginning of the news conference, Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-Majid emphasized the important role that Italy, as chairman of the European Community, can play. He described this role as extremely vital.

The foreign minister noted that Italy and the European Community can help solidify the peace process, which is the principal objective of Italian and Egyptian policy. He asserted that peace and stability in the Middle East affect peace and stability in Europe and throughout the world.

Concluding his statement, Dr 'Abd al-Majid reaffirmed that Egyptian-Italian relations are excellent. He pointed to the assistance and support provided by the Italian Government and people to UNICEF, which is serving a very important function in Egypt.

Speaking later, Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti stressed that progress was made when Jordan and the PLO prepared their framework for negotiations. Andreotti called this a significant step, and said he will discuss the ideas he heard on this issue in future meetings. He pointed out that Israel's prime minister will visit Rome on 18 February, and that the Italian prime minister and foreign minister will visit Washington before President Mubarak.

Asked about the completion of the first phase of Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, Andreotti said this was a positive development, adding: We hope there will be no negative repercussions of the sort that followed Israel's withdrawal from Al-Shuf and from Sabra and Shatila.

Commenting on Europe's role in the Middle East, the Italian foreign minister said: Europe must play its part, and there must be some formula that we may discuss. However, he said, we must have something to build our diplomatic moves on. The Italian foreign minister noted that Europe is faithful to its responsibilities, and it is important that Europe continue working for peace in the Middle East. He stressed that all the principal parties should negotiate, saying: This will make our role effective. We want to see a definite framework for negotiations.

The Italian foreign minister said the European position will be based on the Venice declaration and the amendements to it, which were recently approved in Dublin. He asserted that the negotiating formula agreed upon by Jordan and the PLO is an important development. He said: We believe in the need for direct negotiations, and think it is important to have the two superpowers discuss the Middle East.

Egypt's foreign minister, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, answered a question on the completion of the first phase of Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon by saying that Eygpt views it as a positive sign. Egypt, he added, wants a complete withdrawal from Lebanon and a full restoration of Lebanese sovereignty throughout the country. Egypt, 'Abd al-Majid said, has condemned Israel's aggression against Lebanon and wants the occupation of Lebanon and other Arab territories to end as soon as possible.

After the news conference the Italian Government's official spokesman announced that Italy expressed its approval of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement during its talks with Egypt.

Andreotti Leaves Cairo

NC171907 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1358 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) — Giulio Andreotti, Italian foreign minister and a member of the delegation accompanying the Italian president on his current visit to Egypt, left Cairo today to attend a meeting of the EC Council of Ministers, which will be held in Brussels tomorrow.

Andreotti participated in the Egyptian-Italian talks that took place earlier today.

Before departing, Andreotti said that the talks centered on the Jordanian-Palestinian accord. He expressed hope that this agreement would be a step toward solving the problem, and that it would prevent any stagnation of the situation.

Andreotti said the purpose of the continuing contacts between Egypt and Italy was to draw their views closer together.

The Italian foreign minister was seen off at the airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador 'Umran al-Shafi'i and by Italian Ambassador to Egypt Elio Giuffrida.

Pertini Ends Official Visit

NC180943 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA) — Italian President Sandro Pertini left Cairo for Alexandria this morning at the end of his official 2-day visit to Cairo.

Official farewell ceremonies were held for the distinguished Italian guest in the garden of the Al-Qubbah Palace.

Pertini Visits Alexandria

NC181446 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Alexandria, 18 Feb (MENA) — Italian President Sandro Pertini arrived at Al-Nuzhah Airport at noon today for a brief visit to Alexandria. He was received at the airport by the governor of Alexandria, Major General Fawzi Mu'adh, and by other senior officials.

The Italian president then went to Ra's al-Tin, where he visited some Italian warships at the naval base. The Italian vessels are paying an official call to a Alexandria. He shook hands with high-ranking Italian officers and inspected their vessels. He then had lunch aboard the flagship, *Vittorio Veneto*. The luncheon was also attended by chemist 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and chief of Pertini's Egyptian escort, Navy Lieutenant General 'Ali Jad, commander of the naval forces, and Italian Navy officers.

The Italian president left Ra's al-Tin at 1345 aboard a special plane for Al-'Alamayn, where he will visit the graves of Italian soldiers who died there in World War II. He will then return to Al-Nuzhah Airport to board a plane for Luxor.

The Italian president was seen off by Navy Lieutenant General 'Ali Jad, commander of the naval forces, Major General Anwar Hijazi, chairman of the Alexandria Port Authority, and by high-ranking naval officers.

Jordanian Speaker Al-Fayiz Continues Visit

Received by Mubarak

NC171737 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received 'Akif al-Fayiz, speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives, today. Following the meeting, Al-Fayiz said that they discussed Arab and Palestinian issues, as well as bilateral relations. He added that President Mubarak was, as usual, very frank. Al-Fayiz also expressed hope that the outcome of President Mubarak's visit to the United States would satisfy aspirations and solve problems.

Al-Fayiz noted that King Husayn will meet with President Mubarak in Egypt to draw up general guidelines for future action.

People's Assembly Speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub also attended the meeting, and described the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement as indispensable to any revival of the Middle East issue. Therefore, he said, it should be supported by all Arab countries interested in finding a solution to this question.

Makes Statement on Arab Unity

NC181503 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA) — 'Akif al-Fayiz, speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives, said he will advocate the full restoration of Egypt's membership in the Arab Parliamentary Union during his visits to the legislatures of brotherly Arab states. Such a restoration, he said, would enhance Arab soldiarity and lead to a unified Arab position on current Arab and internatinoal issues.

The Jordanian speaker, who made this statement during a tour of the Al-Salihiyah project today, also described the recent Jordanian-PLO agreement as a brotherly agreement aimed at liberating the occupied territories. The agreement, he added, is a step toward liberating all occupied Palestinian land, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon.

Swedish Defense Minister, Delegation Visit Cairo

NC151453 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA) — Swedish Minister of Defense Anders Thunborg arrived in Cairo this afternoon leading a military delegation on a 3-day official visit to Egypt.

Meets With Abu Ghazalah

NC171610 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) — Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, received Swedish Defense Minister Anders Thunborg today. Thunborg is currently visiting Cairo. Issues of common interest in the fields of arms and military production were discussed at their meeting.

The Swedish defense minister is paying an official visit to Cairo to inspect the Swedish contingent of the multinational force in the Sinai.

Meets With 'Abd Al-Majid

NC171919 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid met tonight with Swedish Defense Minister Anders Thunborg, who is currently on a visit to Egypt. The meeting, which was also attended by the Swedish ambassador to Cairo, featured a discussion of various international questions of mutual interest. They examined the Middle East situation in light of the latest developments in the Palestinian issue, the Lebanese problem in light of the Swedish defense minister's recent visit, and the Iraq-Iran war. Bilateral relations and cooperation were also among the issues reviewed.

FRG Economy Minister, Delegation Visit Cairo

Arrive 17 Feb

NC171946 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1925 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) — West German Economy Minister Martin Bangemann and an accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this evening for a 2-day visit. His visit comes in response to an invitation from Planning and International Cooperation Minister Dr Kamal al-Janzuri.

During his visit, the German minister will hold talks with senior Egyptian officials on strengthening bilateral economic cooperation.

Talks Begin

NC181328 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA) — Egyptian-FRG economic talks began today between Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, minister of planning and international cooperation, and the German delegation headed by FRG Economy Minister Dr Martin Bangemann, who arrived in Cairo yesterday.

The talks dealt with means to enhance economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. They also discussed German economic aid to Egypt for this year. The total aid amounts to DM683 million of which DM250 million are easy term loans, DM33 million are grants to technical cooperation, and DM400 million represent credit facilities. The discussions also dealt with the FRG's participation in financing several joint Egyptian projects, including the nuclear station project in Al-Dab'ah. In this regard, the FRG minister emphasized his government's readiness to finance this project in view of its encouraging economic effects on increasing electrical energy and saving the oil currently used to operate such stations. This will result in increased Egyptian oil exports.

Bangemann Makes Statement

NC181721 Cairo MENA in English 1525 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, Feb 18 (MENA) — West German Minister for Economics Martin Bangemann said that his government offered guarantees for financing the nuclear power station that would be established in Al-Dab'ah, on the northern coast of Egypt.

He added that it is true that his government offered guarantees to the German company that would carry out this gigantic project if it were awarded the tender.

He further said that all the financial details on this subject were discussed, adding that the German companies that wish to take part in this massive project enjoy a high technological standard, and that West Germany enjoys a high security level in the field of nuclear reactors.

This was stated by the German minister following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today at Al-Qubbah Republican Palace.

African Agronomists Conference Opens 18 Feb

NC181125 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA) — The meetings of the African Agronomists Founding Conference, which are expected to last 4 days, began this morning. President Husni Mubarak addressed a message to the conference which was read on his behalf by Dr Yusuf Wali, minister of agriculture and food security.

The opening session was attended by Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, minister of reconstruction and land reclamation; Tawfiq 'Abduh Isma'il, minister of People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs; Dr 'Atif 'Abayd, minister of cabinet affairs and administrative development; 'Isam Radi, irrigation minister; Mr

(Michael Craknell), secretary general of the International Agricultural Producers Union; and (Jofayn Gold), the assistant secretary for the developing countries. [names and titles as received]

Delegates representing 22 African countries are participating in the conference: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Sudan, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mauritius, Ghana, Nigeria, Niger, Senegal, Togo, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Central Africa, Zaire, and Egypt. A number of international organizations are also participating in the conference: the International Agricultural Producers Union, FAO, UNDP and EEC.

Mubarak Address Read

NC181135 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has affirmed that whoever possesses food resources for the present and future and can achieve self-sufficiency will have an independent will and enjoy genuine independence. He said that agriculture in our time is closely related to one of the biggest problems and the most serious development challenges — that is the question of food, particularly in the developing countries.

In a message addressed today to the African agronomists conference, President Mubarak added that the convening of the constituent conference in Cairo is a new manifestation of our great continent's unity and confirmation of the historic ties among its states. It is also a new link in the chain of assiduous work for constructive African solidarity.

In his message, which was delivered on his behalf by Dr Yusuf Wali, minister of agriculture and food security, President Mubarak called on the continent's states to consider the challenges facing them and to strengthen their ties in order to confront today's and tomorrow's problems and issues with understanding.

Supply Minister Begins East European Tour

NC170934 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) — Dr Naji Shatlah, minister of supply and internal trade, left Cairo this morning enroute to Bucharest on a 10-day tour that will also take him to Hungary, the GDR, and the CSSR.

During the tour, the minister of supply and internal trade will discuss all aspects of cooperation between Egypt and the three countries, and the possibility of supplying Egypt with oil, sugar, and meat as well as setting up wheat silos and refrigeration plants, and reequipping mills. The minister will also discuss the possibility of exporting textiles, vegetables, and fruit in return for equipment and machinery.

Omani Political Adviser Visits Cairo 17-18 Feb

Arrives in Cairo

NC171925 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) — 'Umar al-Zawawi, political adviser to Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, sultan of Oman, arrived in Cairo today on a visit that will last several days.

Leaves Cairo

NC181727 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA) — 'Umar al-Zawawi, political adviser to Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, left Cairo for home this afternoon after a 2-day visit to Egypt.

Information Minister Al-Sharif Leaves for Oman

NC181829 Cairo MENA in English 1532 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, Feb 18 (MENA) — Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif left here today for Muscat leading a delegation on a 4-day visit to Oman carrying a message from President Husni Mubarak to Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id.

In a pre-departure statement, Al-Sharif said that he will attend the Egyptian-Omani Joint Committee meeting to discuss information cooperation between both countries.

Arrested Members of Religious Group Released

NC171937 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) — Counselor Raja'i al-'Arabi, advocate general at the Supreme State Security Prosecutor's Office, ordered the release today of 12 women and 1 man from among the 32 individuals accused in the case of the religious organization unearthed recently in Alexandria. That group is known as Al-Tariqah al-Salahiyah al-Muhammadiyah al-Zayniyah. The prosecutor's office ordered the remaining defendants to be held pending an investigation into the case.

Counselor al-'Arabi said the prosecutor's office seized 11 videotapes and 111 cassettes on the meetings and sessions held by Dr Salah Burayqi' and his organization, which claimed he was the prophet. The defendants were charged with organizing a group to oppose the state's basic system.

Israeli Response to Jordan-PLO Accord Condemned

NC180556 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) — In tomorrow's edition, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* criticizes Israel's recent comments on the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement on a joint move to achieve a just and peaceful solution to the Palestinian question. The paper states that Israel's comments reflect attempts at semantics more than a serious desire to establish peace, something which could be a fatal mistake.

The paper adds: When Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said the agreement was directed toward the United States and not Israel, he was actually trying to avoid facing the situation in a responsible way, and to ignore the opportunity provided by the agreement for the possible establishment of a comprehensive and durable peace in the region. Therefore, he contradicted what Israeli officials say about a desire for peace.

AL-JUMHURIYAH warns Israel, as President Mubarak did at yesterday's banquet in honor of the Italian president, that, should it fail to respond to this step and insist on repeating its hollow rejectionist slogans, it would be committing a fatal and historic mistake, and would be responsible for its effects on future generations.

Saddam Decorates Officers, Speaks on War

JN171600 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1522 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Feb (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has stated: We want and are striving to realize peace. We are going everywhere and are speaking at all world forums for the sake of peace. The president added that the Iranian regime wants war and is pursuing the policy of war with the aim of taking Iraq.

In a speech while decorating a group of fighters for their valor, the president affirmed that the Iranians cannot take Iraq even if the war drags on for 1,000 years, adding that even if Iran is consumed and comes to an end, they will never infiltrate 20 km inside Iraq.

The president noted that the Iranians are being forced to fight because they do not believe that the war, whose aims are defined by the mullahs in Tehran, represents their aspirations. The president pointed out that the Iraqi leadership and people have made available to the Armed Forces all the requirements of victory from the political, economic, and information standpoints. Our Armed Forces, the president added, are standing on legitimate ground.

President Saddam Husayn called on the fighters to exploit factors of strategy with military efficiency in order to force the Iranian regime to raise the banner of peace, affirming that glory cannot be realized without sacrifices that make the Iraqis proud and their homeland glorious.

According to republican decrees, Staff Major General Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid, Commander of the 3d Army Corps, was decorated with Al-Rafidayn Medal, second class, military type, as well as the medal of valor. Staff Brigadier General 'Abd Mutlaq al-Juburi, commander of the 16th Division, and Staff Brigadier General Yaljin 'Umar 'Adil, commander of Al-Husayn Forces, were decorated with medals of valor. Two brigadier generals, 5 colonels, 2 lieutenant colonelsm 3 majors, 4 captains, 6 first lieutenants, 21 second lieutenants, 5 warrant officers, and 28 NCO's were deocrated with medals of valor.

Saddam Receives Message From Numayri 19 Feb

JN191108 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Feb (INA) — President Saddam Husayn received a written message from Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri on bilateral relations here today.

Muhammad 'Uthman Abu Saq, Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri's special envoy and secretary of the SSU Organizations Committee, conveyed the message when he was received by Iraqi Vice President Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf today.

RCC Decree Pardons Army Deserters, Defaulters

JN160924 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA) — The Iraqi RCC has decided to grant a general amnesty to all deserters, absentees, and defaulters from military service. In a decree adopted at last Monday's session and which was published by *AL-QADISIYAH* paper today, the RCC called on all those covered by this amnesty to join their units, recruitment centers, or Ba'th Party branches. The new decree signed by President Saddam Husayn gives those covered by this amnesty who are living in Iraq a period of 30 days, and those who are abroad a period of 60 days.

Armed Forces Command Issues Communique No 1,743

JN151731 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Communique No 1,743 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 15 February 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With the high capability and absolute courage which Iraq's brave men are displaying on every inch of our great borders, our valiant Armed Forces continue to tighten the grip around the collapsing enemy forces, leading them to a state of complete impotence. The following are the results of operations our forces carried out yesterday evening and today:

1. In continuation of our firm policy to impose a siege on Iran's ports, and in order to prevent the enemy from utilizing its oil resources to commit aggression on our people, our Air Force planes launched a bold raid against a very large maritime target near Khark Island and hit it accurately and effectively at 2000 [1700 GMT] yesterday. The valiant sky hawks returned safely with their aircraft after carrying out their mission, praise be to God.

2. The brave heroes of the helicopter gunships express their high capability in their daily chase of the enemy remnants, inflicting massive losses in men and equipment. In daring attacks yesterday evening, they delivered destructive strikes to enemy personnel and equipment in the Maysan sector, killing 11 and completely destroying 2 steam boats and 2 observation posts. They returned safely and triumphantly with their helicopters under God's care and protection.

3. Our brave artillery units continued to deliver concentrated and intense strikes against the enemy positions and troop movements in the operational sector east of Basra, inflicting massive losses, killing 17, wounding others, destroying 1 steam boat, and setting fire to enemy positions. The fires could be seen with the naked eye.

4. Our forward units in the central sector of the operational theater opened fire with all types of weapons against the enemy positions and weapon emplacements, destroying 10 infantry positions and killing their occupants. They also destroyed two enemy hardware stockpiles, one machinegun emplacement, and one observation post.

5. Four enemy troops were killed and one infantry position was destroyed in the northern sector of the operational theater.

6. In accordance with the enemy's shameful and cowardly habit, the enemy forces shelled a civilian area in the Khanaqin environs and another civilian area in the Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate,

martyring one citizen and wounding five others in the Khanaqin environs, and martyring one girl and wounding two women and one child in the Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 February 1985

Communique No 1,744

JN161715 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Communique No 1,744 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 16 February 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our brave Armed Forces, who recorded epics of glory while confronting the ignorant, aggressor Iranian rulers in defense of Iraq, are now proudly standing along the borders to further hammer the heads that are filled with folly and spite and which are fighting truth and peace. The Following is a summary of operations for last night and today:

1. Our forward units in the central sector directed effective artillery fire at the collapsing enemy forces and other selected targets. The enemy lost four soldiers killed and one large vehicle destroyed. One heavy machinegun and one mortar were also knocked out.

2. Using artillery, our forward units pounded enemy positions, engineering equipment, and fortified targets east of Basra, inflicting massive losses in men and equipment. One enemy soldier was killed, one hardware stockpile was blown up, and one infantry position was destroyed with those manning it killed.

3. Two enemy soldiers were killed in the northern sector.

4. Escaping the forces of evil and crime in Iran, a large number of iranian civlian as well as military personnel sought refuge with our forward units in the cnetral and northern sectors as well as east of Maysan. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 February 1985

Communique No 1,745

JN171723 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Communique No 1,745 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 17 February 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The empty heads of the Iranian rulers, which contain only spite against the Iraqi people and their progress and against everything that is human and noble, deserve the successive, daily Iraqi strikes which remind Iraqi's enemies that this country will remain a bastion for the values of freedom and that it is guarded by God and by the hands of strong men. The following is a summary of operations for last night and today:

1. With vehement drive, one of our units east of Tigris launched two daring raids on enemy positions and forces, destroying 12 infantry positions, a quantity of enemy equipment and weapons, and a number of hardware stockpiles. Some 20 enemy men were killed and others were wounded.

2. Our giant Air Force planes continued their destructive strikes on enemy forces, equipment, and weapons in the Maysan sector and the sector east of basra, inflicting massive losses. Our pilots returned safely and triumphantly after carrying out 18 combat missions.

3. In order to inflict the gravest losses on the enemy in men, weapons, and equipment, and in order to disrupt its engineering work and paralyze its movements, a number of our forward units east of Basra used artillery and mortars to pound enemy positions, troop concentrations, and vehicles. They inflicted grave losses in men and equipment and knocked out the enemy's engineering equipment. Panic set in among the enemy and columns of smoke were seen arising from various enemy positions.

4. Using artillery, mortars, and other weapons, our forward units pounded selected enemy positions in the central sector, burning a hardware stockpile, destroying a vehicle, and killing three enemy soldiers.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 February 1985

Communique No 1,746

JN181707 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Communique No 1,746 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 18 February 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our brave Armed Forces are continuing their heroic challenge to the remnant forces of aggression. The following is a summary of operations for last night and today:

1. Our triumphant Air Force planes carried out daring raids on enemy troops, hardware, and equipment in the Maysan and the central sectors of the front. Our planes returned safely to base after carrying out 142 combat missions, praise be to God.

2. Last night our helicopter gunships attacked an enemy ambush in the Maysan sector and completely thwarted it, killing the ambushers. Fire was seen engulfing the target. Our helicopters returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Demonstrating their ability to give battle and inflict the gravest losses on the collapsing enemy forces and equipment, our forward untis directed accurate, concentrated strikes on enemy forces east of Basra using artillery and tank fire. They destroyed

11 infantry positions, 1 observation point, 1 antitank gun position, and 1 large vehicle; damaged 1 vehicle; and killed 3 enemy soldiers. The enemy was seen evacuating its casualties.

4. Our forward units continued their accurate, effective strikes on enemy positions and observation posts in the central sector, inflicting losses in men and equipment. They destroyed two observation posts and three infantry positions, whose occupants were also killed.

5. One infantry position was destroyed and those manning it were killed in the Maysan sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 February 1985

Spokesman Refutes Iranian Claims on POW Exchange

JN161505 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1412 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA) — Iraq has strongly denied Iranian claims that Iraq refused to receive a group of Iraqi POW's released by Iran. In a statement today an Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Iranian regime's allegations are a new attempt to deceive the Iranian people and the peoples of the world, and one in a series of forgeries to reverse facts. The spokesman added that the recent statement by an Iranian Foreign Ministry official that Iraq refused to receive a group of Iraqi POW's is a desperate, frustrated attempt to polish the regime's image, which has become very ugly after its inhuman, illegal, and sacreligious treatment of Iraqi POW's — facts which were revealed in a recent statement by the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC].

Explaining the issue, the spokesman said Iraq received a memorandum from the Turkish Embassy in Baghdad on 7 February including the Iranian proposal to deliver 30 handicapped Iraqi POW's through the good offices of the Turkish Government. The Iranian Government stipulated that the ICRC would have no role in this operation under the pretext that the Iranian Government had severed relations with the ICRC, which is no longer active inside Iran.

The spokesman added that immediately upon the receipt of the memorandum, the Iraqi Government studied the demands contained in it and gave its consent to these demands to the Turkish authorities in good time, agreeing that the authorities would receive the POW's and supervise the operation.

He indicated that, out of its respect for the Geneva convention, Iraq asked the ICRC mission to receive the POW's from the Turkish authorities and accompany them to Iraq. In exchange, Iraq submitted a list of the names of 20 Iranian POW's to the ICRC mission and the Turkish authorities to be handed over to Iran in exchange for the Iraqi POW's. The spokesman said the Iranian regime's allegations that Iraq had hesitated in receiving the latest group of Iraqi POW's and that Iraq had agreed to receive them only after the Iranian authorities had warned the ICRC, are false and exposed allegations. He said Iraq had immediately notified the ICRC of its agreement and had not heard of the alleged warning the Iranian official mentioned. This is because the speed with which Iraq positively responded did not give an opportunity for such a warning to be made.

It is known that Iraq unconditionally released Iranian POW's on three occasions out of its respect for the Geneva conventions and the joint medical committee resolutions. This was also in harmony with Iraq's principles and course and in harmony with the benevolent Islamic laws. This was done at a time when the Iranian authorities were turning their back on all international agreements, norms, and charters and extending to the Iraqi POW's ugly and cruel treatment to the point of firing at a group of them before the ICRC mission in the Gorgan camp.

Iran Opposition Reports Work Halted at Port

GF181400 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] The Mojahed radio, mouthpiece for the Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq opposition organization, announced today that an Italian company which was overseeing the construction of the Bandar 'Abbas port complex has halted its work because of the Iranian regime's failure to honor its financial commitments.

The radio said the Italian government (Istial Santarasso) company halted its work before completing the project and that it returned its offices to Italy. It added that the Khomeyni regime's failure to honor its financial commitments, which was the main reason for the stoppage of work, is a mark of the regime's instability and economic collapse.

Reportage on Visit of Osadchuk, USSR Delegation

Cooperation Agreement Signed

JN161300 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA) — Iraq and the USSR signed a cooperation agreement today on developing an Iraqi oil project within the framework of the economic, technical, and scientific cooperation agreement concluded between the two friendly countries. The agreement was signed on the Iraqi side by 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, Oil Ministry under secretary and deputy chairman of the Iraqi side to the Iraqi-USSR joint committee for economic, technical, and scientific cooperation; and on the USSR side by Osadchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and deputy chairman of the USSR side to the committee.

Under the agreement, Soviet organizations will prepare the project's designs and supply the materials and equipment needed to execute the project.

In a speech he delivered at the signing ceremony, 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim said that this agreement consolidates the cooperation that exists between the two friendly countries in all fields.

In a reply speech, Osadchuk praised the huge Iraqi achievements, emphasizing his country's eagerness to promote cooperation with Iraq. The signing ceremony was attended by Iraqi Oil Ministry officials, members of the USSR delegation, and the USSR ambassador in Baghdad.

Confers With Oil Minister

JN161340 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA) — Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi met here today with Osadchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and deputy chairman of the USSR side to the Iraqi-USSR joint committee for economic, technical, and scientific cooperation, and the delegation accompanying him.

The two sides discussed the scope for cooperation in the oil field and ways of developing this cooperation to serve the common interests of the two friendly peoples.

The meeting was attended by the USSR ambassador in Baghdad.

Delegation Leaves Baghdad

JN180925 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0911 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Feb (INA) — Osadchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and deputy chairman of the Iraqi side to the Iraqi-USSR joint committee for economic, technical, and scientific cooperation, and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad for home today at the end of a weeklong visit to Iraq. Osadchuck said that at the end of the Iraqi-USSR joint committee meetings, an agreement was signed for developing an Iraqi oil project within the framework of the economic, technical, and scientific cooperation agreement concluded between Iraq and the USSR. He added that he and Iraqi Oil Ministry officials had also discussed ways of promoting cooperation in the oil industry sphere in service of the two friendly countries' interests.

Additional Reports on Turkish Minister's Visit

Received by Ramadan

JN141319 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Feb (INA) — Today Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister received Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemocin, Turkish minister of finance and customs, who is currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, which was attended by Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi, they reviewed cooperation relations between the two neighborly countries and the ways to develop them in all fields.

Signs Minutes on Pipeline

JN141914 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Feb (INA) — This evening Iraq and Turkey signed the second minutes of the higher joint committee on the second expansion of the Iraqi-Turkish oil pipeline. The minutes were signed on the Iraqi side by Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi and on the Turkish side by Finance and Customs Minister Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemocin.

The minutes stipulate that a second pipeline will be laid parallel to the first. Implementation will begin during the first half of this year and will be completed within 18 months. This expansion will increase the volume of Iraqi oil pumped across Turkey from 1 million to 1.5 million barrels a day.

The general corporation for oil projects will supervise the implementation of the part that passes through Iraqi territory, while the Turkish (Botash) company will supervise implementation of the part that passes through Turkish territory.

In a speech after the signing, the Turkish minister affirmed his country's eagerness to implement this important project, which will greatly bolster relations between the two neighboring countries.

Leaves Baghdad

JN150938 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Feb (INA) — Ahmed Kurtcebe Alptemocin, Turkish finance and customs minister, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad for home today at the end of a 3-day visit to Iraq. The Turkish minister headed his country's delegation to the fifth session of the joint Iraqi-Turkish committee on the implementation of a new Iraqi oil pipeline through Turkish territories, on which the two countries reached agreement in August 1984.

During the visit, the Turkish minister also held talks with oil ministry officials on promoting relations of cooperation and friendship between the two countries in the service of the two peoples interest.

Turkish Oil Company Cited on Iraqi Pipeline

JN171216 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Ankara, 17 Feb (INA) — The Turkish Oil Company has announced that 10 Turkish and international companies have submitted offers to build a new pipeline to transport Iraqi oil to Turkish ports on the Mediterranean.

In a statement today, the company said that the new pipeline will be 783 km long, 558 km of which will be laid in Turkish territory and 225 km in Iraqi territory at a cost of $500 million. It added that five Turkish companies and five other international companies from Japan, Britain, the United States, Italy, and South Korea offered to implement the project.

The company said that the project will be referred to one of these companies in order to begin construction on 1 April provided that it is completed within 18 months.

Turkish Under Secretary Arrives For Talks

JN181340 Baghdad INA in English 1250 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Feb (INA) — The Turkish Under Secretary of Commerce and Industry Ministry (Aken Chakmakchi) today arrived here on several days official visit to Iraq.

The Turkish official will hold talks with officials at the Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Minerals on ways of bolstering bilateral relations particularly in industrial fields, in service of the two neighbourly countries joint interests.

Industrial Talks Begin

JN181604 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1526 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad , 18 Feb (INA) — Iraqi-Turkish industrial talks began in Baghdad today. 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Mulla Huwaysh, under secretary of the Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Minerals, led the Iraqi side, and (Acen Chakmakchi), under secretary of the Turkish Ministry of Commerce and Industry, led the Turkish side. The two sides reviewed aspects of industrial cooperation between the two countries and ways of developing them. They also discussed trade exchange agreements concerning raw materials that are used in industrial production and means of activating technical cooperation in the transfer of technology and in training technical cadres.

Prime Minister Comments on Jordanian-PLO Agreement

JN172016 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat met at his office this evening with the directors of information departments and press chief editors with the presence of the minister of culture, tourism, and antiquities and acting information minister. The prime minister reviewed the conditions that convered a Jordanian-Palestinian accord which was agreed upon last Monday.

Mr 'Ubaydat explained details of the accord and its positive effects to achieve Jordan's aim and the PLO's aim in determining the aspirations of our brothers on the occupied Arab lands and in supporting their steadfastness. Mr 'Ubaydat also explained the future steps to be taken on the Arab and international arena to explain the accord and benefit from its contents to support international efforts carried out to achieve a just solution to the Palestinian problem and to break the deadlock which covered the problem.

Mr 'Ubaydat pointed out that the accord represents joint interests and fulfills the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. He added: It stems from the principles laid down by his majesty the king before the Palestine National Council. It is also based on the principles agreed upon on the Arab and international levels which call for a complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab lands, including Arab Jerusalem, in exchange for peace. It also affirms the rights of the Palestinians in determining their future within the confederation according to the resolutions of the first summit and the UN. He added: That will be achieved within an international peace conference to be attended by the permanent members of the UN Security Council and all the parties concerned including the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Canadian Official Conducts Visit to Amman

Meets Al-Masri, Hikmat

JN161256 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri received Robert Eliot, director general of the Middle East Bureau at the Canadian Foreign Ministry, today.

Tahir Hikmat, minister of culture, tourism, and antiquities and acting information minister, also received Robert Eliot, director general of the Middle East Bureau at the Canadian Foreign Ministry, today. He was accompanied by the Canadian ambassador in Amman. During the meeting, they discussed the situation in the Middle East region in light of the new developments and Jordanian-Canadian relations in general.

Eliot arrived in Amman yesterday on a 3-day visit during which he will meet a number of senior officials.

Received by Prince Hasan

JN180719 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] Amman — *AL-DUSTUR* —His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, has received Robert Eliot, director general of the Middle East Bureau at the Canadian Foreign Ministry. Prince Hasan explained to Eliot the latest developments in the region and the efforts being exerted by Jordan in the international arena to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem. The crown prince presented Eliot with copy of his book "Search for Peace".

Eliot Makes Statement

JN180922 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Feb 85 pp 24, 20

[Sana' al-'Alul dispatch]

[Text] Amman — Robert Eliot, director general of the Middle East Bureau at the Canadian Foreign Ministry, has described the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement on a joint move as a step toward a peaceful and just settlement in the Middle East. In a statement to *AL-DUSTUR*, Eliot said that the Canadian Government will try to contact some countries with which Canada has diplomatic relations in order to encourage them to support the efforts being exerted to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem.

Regarding Canadian policy toward the Middle East problem, Eliot said: It is necessary to achieve a peaceful settlement that will satisfy all parties and guarantee a peaceful life for all the countries in the region. He said: We believe that Security Council Resolution 242 represents a good starting point, because it is based on the principle of land in exchange for peace.

Eliot said that Canada considers the PLO to be representative of the Palestinian majority. The PLO is not the sole representative, because there is Palestinian opposition in some areas.

Answering a question on not recognizing the PLO before the emergence of this opposition, Eliot said that his country's policy is moving forward in this regard. He gave an example by saying that before 1975, his country recognized only some Palestinian rights, but it now recognizes the Palestinian people's legitimate rights to self-determination and establishment of their state. This shows more support and the possibility of recognizing the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in the future.

Eliot described his talks with the Jordanian officials as very important, because Jordan plays an important political role in the Middle East. He said that his talks with Jordanian officials dealt with Jordan's efforts to attain peace in the Middle East, Canadian-Jordanian joint relations, and ways to promote them.

Eliot said: We discussed the possibility of increasing trade cooperation and establishing projects in Jordan with Canadian support. He said that there are many Canadian companies interested in cooperation with Jordan.

Eliot will leave Amman today after a 3-day visit.

Envoys Depart on Diplomatic Missions

JN190831 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] Amman —*SAWT AL-SHA'B* has learned that His Majesty King Husayn will visit Egypt early next month to meet with His Excellency President Husni Mubarak. King Husayn's visit will take place before President Mubarak's visit to Washington.

SAWT AL-SHA'B has also learned that a number of Jordanian envoys have left Amman for various fraternal and friendly countries with royal messages to explain the recent Palestinian-Jordanian agreement and to push the peace efforts in the Middle East and break the stalemate in the Palestine question.

SAWT AL-SHA'B has also learned that Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah left Amman the day before yesterday for the United Kingdom. Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri also arrived in Baghdad yesterday with a message for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The message deals with the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement.

A number of Jordanian envoys are also expected to leave Amman within the next few days for various Arab and friendly states with messages to explain the basis of the Jordanian- Palestinian agreement to achieve a just and lasting settlement of the Palestine question.

Al-'Anani Discusses Trade Balance, Agriculture

JN160930 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Feb 85 p 4

[Muhammad Malkawi dispatch]

[Excerpt] Amman — Industry and Trade Minister Dr Jawad al-'Anani said that reducing oil prices by $1 per barrel will not affect Jordanian industry. This drop will only affect oil products and reduce the government subsidy through oil to the industrial sector. He said that the drop in prices will reduce the government's subsidy of fuel by $15 million.

Answering a question on encouraging Jordanian exports, Dr al-'Anani said a working plan has been drawn up to encourage and increase exports and to continuously increase and improve the balance of trade. Therefore, we will support exports and encourage those industries that are capable of exporting their products. The minister pointed out that in this stand the development plans prefer to deal with countries that are ready to receive Jordan in the imports investment field. He said: This year, exports will increase by 30 percent and imports will decrease by 10 percent. Thus, the balance of trade will be supported and improved by 150 million dinars.

Dr al-'Anani added that the government will concentrate on encouraging the agricultural sector and supporting local industries which prove their ability to meet the local market needs instead of exporting. Thus, the government will restrict its purchases to the local market. This will help to decrease imports and encourage local products without resorting to policies that restrict economic freedom.

Commenting on the drop of prices in the world, Dr al-'Anani said this will contribute to reducing the bill of Jordanian imports and to supporting and improving the balance of trade.

Syria 'Threatened' Palestinians To Form New Command

JN151851 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Syria crystallized its measures to establish an alternative leadership for the PLO when it pushed the Fatah dissidents to merge with the Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] group to form one command. This was announced in Tripoli, Lebanon today. This command will, in the next few days, attract other factions which are living under Syrian pressure.

It is worth noting that the Syrian Government threatened the Palestinian groups in Syrian territory at the beginning of this month to either form an alternative leadership to the PLO or to leave Syrian territory.

Qasim Notes First Payment of Saudi Aid Received

JN181244 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Amman — Finance Ministry Under Secretary Dr 'Abd al-Majid Qasim stated that the treasury has received the first installment of aid from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the current year in accordance with Arab summit resolutions.

Air Force Plane Crashes in Training Flight

JN181820 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1814 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] An official spokesman of the General Command of the Jordanian Armed Forces has stated that a Jordanian Air Force plane piloted by Second Lieutenant Fighter pilot Hisham Muhammad 'Ali took off on a training flight at about 1300 today. During the flight the plane crashed. The pilot was martyred.

Diplomatic Ties With Brunei To Be Established

JN190707 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] Amman (PETRA) — The Sultanate of Brunei and Jordan will establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level, simultaneous announcements in Amman and Brunei said Monday. It said that the decision to establish diplomatic ties was taken during a visit to Jordan by the Sultan of Brunei in December 1984. The two countries also decided to launch cooperation between them in all fields in the interest of their peoples, the announcement added.

AL-RA'Y Views Israeli Withdrawal From Sidon

JN170903 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Feb 85 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "The Departure From Sidon"]

[Text] The Israeli forces withdrew from Sidon yesterday, 2 days earlier than had been planned, after having been the target of more than 200 Lebanese resistance attacks during the weeks preceding the withdrawal.

Clearly, the early departure was not meant as a favor that the retreating forces decided to bestow on the Lebanese; rather, the departure was implemented to curtail the debilitating losses of the Israeli forces. This was the real reason for the decision to make a speedy withdrawal.

Undoubtedly, the aggressors who left the city will never forget their terrifying memories of the Lebanese resistance. Moreover, their departure, in itself, ends the Israeli lie so often claiming that the Israeli will alone determines the fate of the land in which Israeli forces are present. It has been confirmed to the world that the armed Lebanese resistance forced the aggressors to leave the city after it had set the ground ablaze under their feet and pursued them everywhere.

If the aggressors had been able to defeat the resistance in Sidon, they would have unashamedly claimed that the city was Israeli territory just as they boastfully claim that the Golan is Israeli territory. Undoubtedly, their exit from Sidon will not save the aggressors from being hunted down in the areas they still occupy in southern Lebanon. The resistance will pursue them and lie in wait for them. They will have to pay the price for their arrogance with more dead and wounded until they vacate the entire south.

The aggressors' departure from Sidon is a worthy example the Palestinian resistance in the occupied Palestinian territories should follow. Developing the resistance there continues to be the indispensable means of forcing the Israeli leadership to reassess its position and respond to efforts aimed at establishing real peace in the region. Such peace necessitates recognition of the Palestinian people's right to their land and their right to self-determination.

A thousand greetings to Sidon, the city of heroes.

Commentary Hits Israeli Deportation of Palestinians

JN190703 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Feb 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Quality of Guilt"]

[Text] The deportation by Israel of 'Abd al-'Aziz Shahin, a prominent figure in the Palestinian resistance movement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, marks the resumption of the deportation policy that Israel implemented vigoriously during its first decade in control of the occupied territories. During that period, over 1,500 Palestinians in leadership positions were forcibly expelled from the West Bank and Gaza. The aim of the expulsions was very clear: to deprive the Palestinians of their natural leadership, and thereby to make Israeli political pacification of the occupied territories correspondingly easier.

The plan has not worked very well, for the resistance continues. Even after almost 18 years of occupation, Palestinians still risk throwing hand grenades at Israeli soldiers of the occupation forces. The level of resistance certainly has dropped over time, but this is no surprise in view of the fact that Israel has jailed or expelled thousands of Palestinians men and women who form the bulk of the active resistance movement.

It is perhaps ironic that a government in Israel headed by a Labour prime minister should resume the expulsions of Palestinians. We are told these days that the American Government is asking the Israeli Government to oppress the Palestinians with a slightly lighter touch, and to improve the "quality of life" of the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation. The Israeli Government's response has not been long in coming.

By resuming the expulsions of Palestinians, Israel seems to signal no change in its standard occupation policy — continue building and expanding settlements, encourage as many Palestinians as possible to leave the land and go live in another country, and deal harshly with those who remain in their homes in Palestine.

That all this is being done by a country that is financed to the hilt by the United States raises the obvious question: is Palestinian "quality of life" really what the United States is interested in improving, or is it more interested in assuaging its own guilty conscience?

Islamic Jihad Reportedly To Execute American Hostage

NC161723 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1710 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Excerpt] AP has reported that a spokesman for the Islamic Jihad organization phoned one of its offices and said the organization will execute one of the four Americans in its custody. The spokesman said that an explanation will be provided after the execution has been carried out.

Reportage on Israeli Withdrawal From Sidon

VOL Confirms Israeli Withdrawal

NC160834 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] The Israeli Army has for some time now been dismantling its equipment in the Sidon area; it was instructed to effect the withdrawal this morning.

The latest military reports, that which we have just received, indicate that the Israeli Forces have already pulled down tents and removed the Israeli flag from positions in Al-Awwali, Sharhabil, and Tallat Mar Ilyas. Lebanese military sources said that Battalions 98, 121, and 122 and Tank Battalion 124 are now ready to take up positions in the areas vacated by the Israelis. Two battalions stationed in the Sidon barracks and Kafr Falus will support the aforementioned battalions. The military sources added that all units have been instructed to prepare to deploy in their appointed positions.

Israeli Soldiers Withdrawn

NC160946 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0935 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Our correspondent in Sidon 'Isa Abu 'Isa reports that at this very moment the Israeli forces are vacating Sidon and the Al-Awwali bridge, and have regrouped in Sharhabil township.

The Israeli forces first withdrew, then returned, but soon afterward they vacated their positions. There is no longer any Israeli soldier there.

Sidon Deputy Dr Nazih al-Bizri has called on the citizens not to go out in the streets.

Governor Appeals to Southerners

NC161013 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Appeal addressed to south Lebanese inhabitants by Governor of the South Halim Fayyad — live or recorded]

[Text] Brother southerners: We are all blessed today for we will witness moments of pride and national dignity. They are the moments of the evacuation of the occupation forces from our pure land, thanks to our unified will and domestic unity, as well as to the steadfast official stand and the national heroic resistance. Many nations have suffered from occupation. But this occupation in Lebanon has retreated because it failed to subjugate our consciences and minds. The good tidings of the future were brought to us by the Lebanese, particularly the southerners, who had proven that he deserves this beautiful homeland and deserves freedom and sovereignty.

We repeat our warning that you should be more cautious and vigilant to abort any new attempt to create sedition. The role of the leaders and officials and the vigilance of the citizens create optimism and hope.

Israeli 'Warplanes' Overfly Sidon

NC161044 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1031 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] A little while ago, the Lebanese Army crossed Al-Awwali toward the municipal playground and Saydun. Seven armored personnel carriers and four jeeps were spotted on the Al-Awwali bridge.

The Israeli forces are now evacuating their positions in Tallat Mar Ilyas, east of Sidon, and are dismantling their equipment in the areas overlooking the Al-Miyah Wa Miyah camp.

Israeli warplanes are now overflying Sidon and the positions that have been vacated by the Israeli forces.

Meanwhile, Internal Security Forces have taken over 'Abra barracks following withdrawal of the army of southern Lebanon this morning. The Internal Security Forces are expected to set up a fixed position there.

In another development, an Israeli forces' position in the Al-Zahrani District was rocketed today. Immediately afterward, the Israeli forces searched the area during which a number of citizens were wounded.

Army Enters Al-Najmah Square

NC161126 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1118 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Army entered the southern area via Al-Awwali at noon today. The Lebanese Army has just arrived in Al-Najmah square in Sidon.

Army units are getting ready to take up positions in the Sharhabil areas after the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Tallat Sharhabil, which is expected to take place at any moment. The Israelis have withdrawn from their positions in Al-Miyah Wa Miyah and Al-Zahrani.

Minister Joseph al-Hasim has contacted Sidon Deputy Dr Nabih al-Bizri, who said that the atmosphere in the town is splendid and that the unity of ranks is being demonstrated to the utmost.

Meanwhile, Israeli helicopters are carrying out overflights between the Tallat Sharhabil area and the new Israeli positions in Jazzin.

Army Assumes Positions

NC161136 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] We were informed by a military source 1 minute ago that the Lebanese Army has hoisted the Lebanese flag on Tallat Sharhabil and taken up positions in the area. Also, the Army has completed its deployment in the following areas: Tallat al-Radar in Mahallat al-Musaylih, Al-Miyah Wa Miyah, Tallat Sharhabil, Tallat Mar Ilyas, and Al-Zahrani.

Army Takes New Positions

NC161507 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Dispatch by NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent in Sidon — recorded]

[Text] According to reports we received a few minutes ago, Lebanese Army units have taken up positions in Tallat Mar Ilyas, 'Abra, Al-Qayya'ah junction, Al-Rahibat triangle, Al-Islah, in Sidon's land and naval strongpoints, and in its port. Positions have also been taken up on the military beach, the Al-Awwali and 'Alman bridges, and in Darb al-Sin, and Al-Miyah Wa Miyah.

Army's Deployment Area Expanded

NC161920 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Our correspondent in the south reports that the Lebanese Army took up positions tonight in the Al-Zahrani-Al-Musaylih area and in the Regie-Al-Ghaziyah junction as far as the Sayniq-Sidon bridge. The Army set up roadblocks in Sidon, much to the joy and jubilation of its people.

Our correspondent adds that the situation in Sidon is quiet and positive.

'Usayran on Army Positioning

NC161243 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] 'Adil 'Usayran, minister of defense and agriculture, has commented on the Lebanese Army's entry into Sidon. He said that the purpose of the Army's entry into the Sidon area and the south is to restore the legitimate authority in the area which had been for some time under the yoke of the Israeli occupation, and to maintain law and order in this dear part of Lebanon. Our citizens in Sidon and the south are asked to support the Army in carrying out its duties in the best possible way, because the Army belongs to all Lebanese. Our soldiers, who will undertake this mission, must realize its importance and seriousness, must meet their responsibility, and must respond to the call of duty whenever needed, regardless of the sacrifices and hardship.

Minister 'Usayran said: The return of Sidon to the homeland means that Lebanon has returned to itself, because Sidon is the departure point on the road to the liberation of the entire south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya from the yoke of Israeli occupation. All of us, civilians and military, are asked to unite our strength and efforts and stand united to foil the enemy's actions. The enemy has exploited every opportunity to divide us, hoping that he will achieve gains he failed to accomplish in his invasion and occupation of parts of our territory.

Minister 'Usayran added: My appeal to you, sons of the south, and of Sidon in particular, and to members of the Lebanese Army who are going to Sidon, is to join forces against the enemy who is withdrawing from our territory. We are united in liberating Lebanon and in rebuilding its land, people, and institutions. The Army is here to protect you and to restore the legitimate authority of which the enemy deprived you. The Army is from you and for you; its members are your sons and brothers. You must support the Army for it to be able to carry out the task entrusted to it — the return of the area to the homeland following the forcible separation imposed by Israel.

Members of the Lebanese Army going to the south, be confident that you will be among your brothers and parents. Everyone in the south is eager to see you responding to their humiliation by Israel. Meet your responsibility and be aware that our sole enemy is Israel and Israel's agents.

Army Commander Visits Sidon

NC161749 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Army Commander General Michel 'Awn visited Sidon this afternoon. He was accompanied by Army Chief of Staff Major General Abu Dirgham and Intelligence Director Colonel Simon Qassis. The Army commander inspected the Army's positions and gave the necessary orders to his officers.

President, Prime Minister Address Sidon Residents

Al-Jumayyil, Karami Visit Sidon

NC171031 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1019 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] A report received from our correspondent in Sidon says that President Amin al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Rashid Karami arrived in Sidon at 1215. They were accompanied by Army Commander General Michel 'Awn and the Army chief of staff. They will inspect the Army positions and will meet with political and spiritual leaders to be briefed on the situation in Sidon.

Al-Jumayyil Sidon Speech

NC171422 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Excerpts] President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived at Muhammad Zughayb barracks in Sidon at 1200 today aboard a military helicopter, accompanied by Prime Minister Rashid Karami, Army Commander Michel 'Awn, Chief of Staff Mahmud Tayy

Abu Dargham, and high-ranking officers, to inspect the Lebanese Army deployment positions, meet with leaders and political and spiritual figures, and acquaint himself with conditions in the area.

President al-Jumayyil delivered the following speech on this historic occasion:

[Begin recording] I have come to express my feelings on this glorious day, this blessed day, this day which marks the first step on the road to liberating the south, western al-Biqa' and Rashayya. The first step began in Sidon itself, and it is inevitable that it should prevail throughout our country and include every inch of our dear Lebanese soil, soil dear to all of Lebanon. The sons of the south have watered this soil with their generous blood through the honest and heroic Lebanese resistance [applause], which has upheld Lebanese dignity, restored vigor to the Lebanese people, and become a symbol of Lebanon's unity and liberation. [applause]

While in Sidon itself, the capital of the south, we speak well of him, and wish him a speedy recovery so that he may return to us and resume with us Lebanon's long struggle for the liberation of the territory and for the liberation of the Lebanese. We hope that Mustafa Sa'd will return to Sidon [applause] in good health. May God bestow his mercy upon Nathasha [daughter of Mustafa Sa'd killed in explosion] and upon the many martyrs. Countries are built by sacrificing innocent blood on the homeland's altar, such as the blood of Nathasha Sa'd and the heroes who are daily showing the Lebanese people how to safeguard the homeland. Congratulations to the south on this first liberation step. Congratulations to Lebanon itself on this example which Sidon and its suburbs have taught us by their cohesiveness and unity, and by the love we can see on the faces of the sons of Sidon. May love and harmony prevail throughout our Lebanese territory. We are in dire need of these sentiments and this spirit because countries are built and maintained by love. Thank you. [end recording]

Karami Addresses South Residents

NC171643 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Speech by Prime Minister Rashid Karami in Sidon on 17 February — recorded]

[Text] Honorable sons of the south: You have raised Lebanon's head high in the skies of dignity and glory, you have defended your rights, struggled against the oppressive enemy occupiers, and have won for our noble people the dignity, prestige, and victory to which they have aspired. You are returning to the homeland. The legitimate authorities have come here to emphasize their determination to do their duty and to give this precious part of Lebanon the rights it deserves from the state. By your return, you have confirmed the unity of our people and the sincerity of this area, in which we all take pride.

The enemy has been gambling on the appearance of differences between our officers and our people (?in government). For this reason, we saw the enemy maneuver and try to blackmail the Lebanese negotiator in Al-Naqurah. The enemy could not see that this noble people have proven their genuine national position through their will, steadfastness, and struggle. The legitimate authorities had to respect this position and embody it in everything they did. They rejected all the enemy's demands, because we laid down general principles and guidelines for the negotiations that we did not deviate from, as our goal is liberation and peace without strings or conditions.

After they realized the worth and strength of this people, and tasted the bitterness of defeat thanks to our people's steadfastness and struggle, they acknowledged our people, whom they had previously ignored. This was so because they viewed them in terms of numbers, and not in terms of quality and integrity. They acknowledged our people by their unilateral decision to withdraw. Therefore, we tell them that they should be ready to conduct one withdrawal after another until the last inch of southern soil is liberated.

They have often tried to sow the seeds of religious or sectarian sedition, but all their attempts failed. The people of the south have, through their Christian-Islamic — Sunnite-Shi'ite-Maronite-Druze-Orthodox-Catholic — unity, proven that they are the sons of one family bound by their love for Lebanon and strengthened by their hated for the enemy and every oppressive occupation.

While we inhale the fragrance of these blessed days, immortal days for Lebanon and days of liberation, sovereignty, and unity, we feel proud. We say that you are the state of Lebanon, and that you are the will of free Lebanon.

Honorable people, we know that our responsibilities from now on will be greater than they were in the past. We ask God to grant us success in assuming our responsibilities, and to help us do our duty to rebuild what has been destroyed. We ask his help in returning to our people that which is due them from the state, and in guaranteeing services in all areas. We pledge to do all this. We have come to prove that all of Lebanon's people are with the south, and that the entire south is in Lebanon's heart. Long live you, the south, and long live Lebanon. [applause]

Al-Jumayyil Congratulates Sidon Residents

NC171716 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] On the occasion of Sidon's liberation from the filthy Israeli occupation, His Excellency President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil delivered a speech to the people of Sidon during his visit there today. He said:

[Begin recording] Congratulations to Sidon and its suburbs on this blessed day, which marks the beginning of our liberation. Congratulations to Lebanon for the people of Sidon and its suburb, who are facing these events with a pure national spirit. The people of Sidon and its suburbs have become a symbol of national unity and liberation.

We promise the people of Sidon and its suburbs, as well as the sons of the south and all Lebanese, that the pure blood which has irrigated this sacred soil shall be our common motive for continuing the process of liberation, unification, and of rebuilding Lebanon — a Lebanon of peace, equality, dignity, and prestige.

People of the south, we pledge unto you that we will continue our energetic efforts to liberate every inch of this sacred soil. The blood of the martyred members of the resistance has charted the proper course and revealed the correct national method for liberating our homeland and rebuilding Lebanon, this impregnable fortress against which all plots shall fail.

Congratulations to you on this blessed day. Congratulations to all of Lebanon's people for the people of the south, who know how to restore our national dignity, and how to preserve our worth and independence. [end recording]

Reactions to Israeli Withdrawal From Sidon

Karami on Israeli Withdrawal

NC161454 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] The Cabinet meeting at the Presidential Palace in B'abda ended a short while ago. Prime Minister Rashid Karami made the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Karami] This is an auspicious and historic occasion. We have waited a long time and have done much for this day. It is the day of liberation. It is the day when Lebanese sovereignty was restored in this dear homeland. On this occasion, I am pleased to congratulate my Lebanese brothers in general, and the national resistance forces in particular. This cooperation, unity, and steadfastness have made it possible for us to see this day, which marks the beginning of the withdrawals. We will act to ensure that these withdrawals are comprehensive and take place as soon as possible without restrictions or conditions. This marks the end of the first stage of withdrawals and the beginning of the remaining two stages. I am confident that Israel will stage a complete withdrawal from Lebanon, the swamp in which all sorts of ambitions, actions, and plans have sunk.

Now that our salvation has begun in the south, just as our country's hardships began there, we must be aware of the duties and responsibilities we all face. We must rise to the level demanded by this historic occasion in terms of our sacrifices and solidarity. Our actions must be well planned to serve the welfare, dignity, and prosperity of our people. Our Army entered the south today. It is prepared to occupy those areas evacuated by Israel. The Army was received with gifts of rice, roses, and other flowers. When we say that God's will is part of our people's will, we are working to satisfy their aspirations and ambitions through a responsible and objective action to open our various regions to one another after first opening our hearts. This is our most important task. Let us turn the page of the past and open the page of the present and future. Let us be guided by impartiality, sincerity, and support for this country's march toward liberation, unity, sovereignty, reform, and toward the establishment of its new system on the basis of sound democracy, justice, and equality, which all Lebanese cherish. Let us agree among ourselves, open our hearts, and work as one for our people's welfare and dignity.

On this occasion I would like to say that during the meeting I attended in the company of his excellency the president of the republic, it was decided to reopen the northern road in the next few days. This decision was adopted by the Phalange Party on the basis of its official attitude toward the government and the state. The Army has been ordered to take the necessary measures and steps to implement this decision quickly.

[Unidentified reporter] Will the Damascus road be reopened soon?

[Karami] Undoubtedly, the Damascus road will be reopened. I hope this happens soon. [end recording]

Speaker Al-Husayni on Withdrawal

NC161628 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] On the occasion of the Israeli enemy's first withdrawal from the Sidon area, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni said that Lebanon took a qualitative step forward along the path to liberation today when Sidon and its environs were purged of the Israeli enemy and embraced the Lebanese Army. This, he said, was due to the fight waged by the Lebanese national resistance forces and the people's rallying around it.

Al-Husayni stressed that we must now bolster and defend the liberation of Sidon by consolidating security in Beirut, as the security of the south is linked to the security of the capital. He added that our victory should not lead us to relax politically, militarily, or psychologically.

He called for caution and vigilance in watching the enemy's plans to prevent him from achieving the objectives he failed to reach through invasion and occupation.

Al-Jumayyil Briefs Al-Asad

NC170650 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil called Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on Saturday to brief him on the liberation of Sidon and its environs from the Israeli occupation and the entry of the Lebanese Army into the area, according to SANA.

President al-Jumayyil added that he takes the opportunity of this historical day to convey his thanks to President al-Asad, and to Syria for the support given to Lebanon during its struggle to liberate its territory from the Israeli occupation.

President al-Asad congratulated Al-Jumayyil and the Lebanese people on this event, which represents a joint victory for Lebanon and Syria and for the entire Arab nation.

The Syrian president praised the resistance in fraternal Lebanon and its national unity which have greatly contributed to the achievement of this victory. President al-Asad asked President al-Jumayyil to convey his warm congratulations to the Lebanese people.

Three Israeli 'Agents' in Sidon 'Liquidated'

NC161641 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces withdrew from Sidon and Al-Zahrani today. However, they ignored their agents and left them behind.

This is a natural experience for everyone who has risen against oppression, coercion, and occupation. It is also natural that the Lebanese people in the south should bring every agent to task. This is what happened a few hours before the Israeli withdrawal. Muhammad Hablah, nicknamed the captain, the official in charge of Sidon's so-called National Guard, and the agents Nazih Bayram from Corniche Al-Bahr and Hasan Zu'aytar from Harat Sayda have been liquidated. Muhammad 'Umar Bashashah's maritime transport office and two trucks belonging to that office have been burned.

9 'Enemy Agents' Arrested

NC170930 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Lebanese national resistance fighters raided Kafr Hatta in the liberated Al-Zahrani District where they stormed the homes of enemy agents, arresting nine of them. The clash lasted 45 minutes. The wounded agents include Nabil Qamh. The arrested agents were taken to Beirut where they will be tried.

Hezbollah, Palestinians Demonstrate in Sidon

NC181343 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] After having received the Army and senior Lebanese officials with great jubilation and spontaneous national demonstrations and having raised Lebanese flags, Sidon awoke this morning to a negative manifestation.

Its citizens, however, did not attach any importance to this incident because it is a factor within a framework of confusion and alien practices in Lebanon. Gunmen belonging to Hezbollah raised Khomeyni photos and marched in an armed demonstration which orginated partly from Beirut's southern suburb and partly from certain suburbs of Sidon.

The people of Sidon denounced these manifestations, believing that those who raised these alien slogans should have raised Lebanese flags instead and concealed their weapons. This was demanded by the city's functionaries.

Our correspondent in the south reported that Palestinian men, who had disappeared after the Israeli invasion, reappeared with the gunmen. The reporter adds that the gunmen raided a number of shops in Sidon and adjacent areas, damaging their contents. They also beat a woman from the Al-Haddad family. Mufti of Sidon Shaykh Salim Muhammad Jalal al-Din appealed to the city's people to unify their stand and let the Lebanese Army take over security, law, and order.

Hezbollah Gunmen Leave Sidon

NC181744 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] The Hezbollah gunmen who entered the city of Sidon this morning left there this afternoon. They withdrew in vehicles mounted with weapons, and returned to South Beirut, their original point of departure.

Defense Minister on Renewed Anti-Israeli Struggle

NC171653 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text][Former]Speaker [of the Chamber of Deputies and current Defense Minister] 'Adil 'Usayran told the Voice of Lebanon: We greatly appreciate the Lebanese resistance forces, which have done well and proven their ability to rise to the level of responsibility.

He added: If the Israelis think of returning, we will continue the struggle against them to preserve our dignity.

He emphasized that he told the Army commander that the Army should answer the occupier if he harms the Army in any way.

Al-Murabitun Leader on Withdrawals, Syria

NC182220 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] In an interview with the PRESS NEWS AGENCY, Brother Ibrahim Qulaylat [leader of the Independent Nasirite Movement — Al-Murabitun] said that the Israeli withdrawal from Sidon and its vicnity was a planned one that left its agents behind. These agents might try to upset the situation by using any available means.

Brother Qulaylat said: Any aggravation of the situation will be for the purpose of implementing the Zionist plan and forcing sectarian fighting. The objective is to support the justifications employed by the architects of partitionist plans and those who seek to establish cantons. He stressed that available information indicates the enemy is mobilizing all his undercover agents to stage new massacres in the absence of a joint political-military program involving those forces that believe in Lebanon's unity and are committed to their historic hatred of the Zionist entity.

Brother Qulaylat added: The question of Al-Murabitun's increased popularity at this point is not one of circumstance or emotion. It is in line with Al-Murabitun's history and its commitment to its political-military program.

Brother Qulaylat reaffirmed that Al-Murabitun absolutely does not agree with Yasir 'Arafat and his plans. He said: Our position is not new. It was formulated during the siege of Beirut.

He added: I am proud of the fact that I was the only one who refused to say goodbye to 'Arafat when he left Beirut, leaving the Zionist enemy as an invader and occupier.

Answering a question on his assessment of Al-Murabitun's relations with fraternal Syria, particularly after the renewal of allegiance to President Hafiz al-Asad, Brother Qulaylat said: President Hafiz al-Asad's continued presence at the head of Syria's leadership is a clear indication that Syria is steadfast, and will confront all plans directed against our decisive national and pan-Arab issues.

He added: Let those who want to be assured be assured that the governing factor in our relations with Syria is our sharing of a common trench in confronting the Zionist entity and its plans in Lebanon and in the Arab region as a whole.

Al-Husayni Emphasizes Army's Security Role

NC181848 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] After a meeting of the deputies of the south, the west al-Biqa', and Rashayya, chaired by House Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, a communique was issued stressing the need for the consolidation of security in the city of Sidon, for limiting the carrying of arms to the Lebanese Army and the Internal Security Forces, as well as for preventing any illegal armed presence.

The communique warned against any relaxation or any hesitation in taking immediate and firm measures in confirming the state's authority and the supremacy of law and order.

After the meeting, House Speaker Husayn al-Husayni affirmed that there was unanimity over the fact that the Lebanese Army alone should be in charge of security and that any armed presence in regions vacated by Israel would only be an incitation to sectarian strife.

Army Commander Issues Appeal to Units in South

NC170750 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Army Commander General Michel 'Awn issued an appeal to the Army units in the south on 17 February. He affirmed that the purpose of their entry into the south and their deployment there is not to fill any security vacuum created by the Israeli withdrawal. He said that the occupation power never promoted security or guaranteed the freedom of the people under occupation, but suppressed their liberties and corrupted security.

He added: Your task in the south is to safeguard the safety of the people who resisted and struggled, and to safeguard the safety of the territory which refused to allow anyone but its soldiers to step on it, and which allowed only the will of the homeland and the legitimate authority to prevail.

The Army commander said that the experiment in the south must be a lesson to all after the people had tasted the bitterness of the occupation.

Conditions for Resumption of Al-Naqurah Talks

NC160700 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Diplomatic sources confirmed yesterday that Lebanon has no objection to returning to the Al-Naqurah negotiations provided that Israel presents a timetable for the second and third withdrawal phases. The sources said that Lebanon has publicly outlined its stance and views affirming that what Israel claims is contrary to reality in the south. The southern citizens are united and are requesting the arrival of the Lebanese Army. The proof will be shown in the period following the first Israeli withdrawal from Sidon and its environs.

The sources said that Lebanon has instructed its UN mission to make sure that the UN Security Council's statement, which will be issued after the current consultations, includes the Lebanese views regarding the situation in the south and the negotiations. The statement should urge all parties to complete the withdrawal calmly.

The Foreign Ministry has maintained its consultations regarding the developments in the south and the repeated Israeli attacks against the citizens.

Birri Urges Southerners To Return, Praises Doctors

NC152059 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] The Amal movement's social services office hosted a dinner banquet tonight at the Merryland Hotel in Al-Rawshah, Beirut, in honor of the medical profession. Speaking on the occasion, Nabih Birri, minister of state for southern Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, praised the efforts by Lebanese doctors before and after the uprising. He also praised them for what they put up with under the present difficult conditions. He said: The homeland cannot be restored if its sons do not return to it. This return must begin in the south. It was there that the first spark was ignited and I believe that the beginning of the end will be there also.

Minister Birri urged those in the medical profession and all who can to go to the south. He said: No resistance and no steadfastness is equal to the return of the sons of the south. It would be treason if after today any southerner remains in Beirut, its suburbs or any other place unless it were for very compelling reasons.

Minister Birri added: I say this and I bear the responsibility. I know very well that this return entails difficulties, hardships, and expenses. However, they can all be surmounted. They become easy and fade away when compared with the price of the homeland.

'Abd al-Hamid Qabalan spoke on behalf of the Amal movement's social services office and Dr As'ad Tahir spoke for the medical profession. Dr Mahmud 'Awwad also spoke. He said that a hospital for the national resistance will be built in Beirut to treat the strugglers and their families, as well as the families of prisoners, free of charge.

PSP Leader Junblatt Vows To Fight Regime, U.S.

NC162029 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Speech by Walid Junblatt, Progressive Socialist Party leader, in 'Bayh on 16 February, marking the first anniversary of Al-Shahhar's liberation — recorded]

[Text] Dear comrades, ladies and gentlemen, and respected elders: It is wrong and deadly to believe or think that the battles of Al-Shahhar, the suburb, and the mountain area are separate or stand alone. It is wrong to believe they are unrelated to the battle being fought by the national trade union, for example, or the ones being waged by the heroic national resistance in the south against the occupation and Israel. [applause] The battle is indivisible. It will remain indivisible, for once we start separating or dividing our battles, we will be doing exactly what the masters of isolation and the Israelis want — we will be allocating each battle to a given sect, group, party, or region. Never.

The battle of Al-Shahhar was the inevitable result of the victorious battle in the mountains, and of the heroic uprising in Beirut. It is the battle of all nationalists, from Lebanon's north to its south, from its east to its west. It is the battle of all deprived persons in Lebanon. This group is not confined to any one sect, class, party, or family. A deprived person is deprived whether he is Druze, Shi'ite, Sunni, Christian, or something else. That is why we are celebrating today in Al-Shahhar, in 'Bayh, in this holy place. We are celebrating the real battle waged by the deprived against this fascist Phalangist regime, which is collaborating with Israel, the United States, and the West.

It is a confrontation with this clique, which has robbed and massacred our people. Those who were massacred in Kafr Matta, 'Bayh, Al-Binnay, and elsewhere, were like those who were massacred in the suburb, and those who were taken prisoner and kidnapped. More than 2,000 kidnapped persons were killed. They were also like those massacred in Sabra and Shatilla. We will never forget Sabra and Shatilla. They were like those who are now being persecuted and killed by the Israeli Army and its agents in the heroic and steadfast villages of the south.

The battle is indivisible. Unfortunately, some believe we can separate our battles. Never. The battle is one, and has no identity beyond the national identity, the Arab identity, and I say it frankly, the Islamic identity. [applause] If we accept the notion that the battle of Al-Shahhar belongs to its people, that the battle or uprising in the suburb belongs to the people of Beirut, and that the battle in the mountain area belongs to its people, then we will fall into a great trap. This trap, which seeks to divide the sons of the one homeland, has been laid by the isolationists and their comrades in Israel, by Arab reactionaries, and by the plotting United States, the imperialist we expelled. We are always ready to expel and massacre [dhabhihi] it, regardless of the sacrifices. [applause]

Honorable gathering. I say this because we are today, by a glorious coincidence, on the verge of liberating Sidon through the blows of Lebanon's national resistance. [applause] If the Lebanese regime wants to give its sectarian Army the credit for liberating Sidon, then let us say: Sidon has been, and the south will be liberated only through the blows of Lebanon's heroic national resistance. [applause]

We will continue to fight and confront the hegemonic Phalangist regime. It is a regime of monopoly, robbery, murder, terror, and starvation. Yes, we are seeing starvation accompanied by claims that its perpetrators are unknown. We know who is stealing money from the Lebanese people — the monopolies represented by Amin al-Jumayyil's regime, and its comrades, banks, and institutions. Let's say so openly. Stop keeping the people in the dark. Stop covering up for those responsible. Stop forming ridiculous and worthless investigating committees. This regime is stealing our people's money after having (?persecuted) them in the suburb, in Al-Shahhar, Ra's al-Nab', and in the south through the 17 May accord.

Today they want to wage a new war against us, an economic war. They should remember that the palaces of Ba'bda will never protect them, no matter how high they might be, and despite the gangs of some mercenary agents from the Lebanese Army. The shah of Iran was much (?stronger), and he fell. [applause] Let him remember that the shah of Iran was much, much stronger and that he fell when the people revolted and were hungry. All the groups and sects among the Lebanese people will overthrow this tyrannical, oppressive, and spiteful regime, regardless of the results.

Naturally, this regime is trying to ally itself superficially with some of its friends in the Arab world. It is trying to build bridges to others in the socialist world. It is doing so only to avoid the final result — that our people in Al-Shahhar, the suburb, Ra's al-Nab', Beirut, the south, Tripoli, and everywhere else, this heroic, deeply conscious, and armed people — and that is a guarantee for all — will revolt.

They have revolted, and they will revolt. They revolted and destroyed the 4th Brigade in Al-Shahhar, the Lebanese Army in West Beirut, and the Phalangists in the mountains. They will destroy all foreign armies and their local allies everywhere. [applause] I wanted to clarify these points so we will not fall, as I mentioned earlier, into the trap or snare which the isolationist circles want to lay. We would do so by separating or dividing up our battles.

The cause is one. The flag is one. The homeland is one. Our aim is one from north to south, from Al-Shahhar to Al-Biqa', and in Tripoli, Beirut, the suburb, Ra's al-Nab', and everywhere. It is the cause of this poor, deprived, heroic, armed, and conscious people, who want their rights and equality in this country.

Finally, we won our victory in Al-Shahhar. Our victory was due to the sanctity of this place and its soil, and was inspired by Amir 'Abdallah al-Tanukhi. [applause] Our victory was also due, and let's say so openly, to the consciousness of our comrades, the mujahidin, the respected shaykhs, and the nationalists in Al-Shahhar and elsewhere. We won thanks for the guns and tanks of the Progressive Socialist Party [applause]. We also won thanks to the heroic and honest soldiers and officers in the Lebanese Army, with Captain Walid Zakariya at their head. [applause] This is the best proof of this national, pan-Arab, Arab, and Islamic rallying. Peace be upon you. [applause]

PSP Demands Speech Broadcast

NC181836 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] The retransmission yesterday on Channel Seven of the Lebanese television of the whole videotape of Walid Junblatt's speech on Saturday came as a result of threats from Junblatt's party to blow Channel Seven sky high unless it did so, according to reliable security sources. The same sources said the channel had in fact covered Junblatt's speech on Saturday by transmitting extracts from his address on the occasion of Shahhar Day, in which he fiercely attacked the state authority and the president of the republic, but anonymous callers from the PSP [Progressive Socialist Party] insisted the whole videotape be retransmitted because otherwise the Tallat al-Khayyat studios would be blown to pieces. The threat was coupled with two rockets fired on the building, obviously as a warning.

Elie Karamah Responds to Walid Junblatt

NC181403 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The Phalangist Party's Political Bureau and Central Council held a weekly meeting under Dr Elie Karamah. The Phalangist Party leader began his general political review by answering Walid Junblatt. He said: This man is annoyed by the government's success in sending the Lebanese Army to Sidon and the south. He had hoped that the incidents occurring in Al-Shuf and 'Alayh would take place in the south. However, he was disappointed and enraged and he probably tried to thwart this successful operation.

Dr Karamah added: I do not want to answer Junblatt with similar statements because we cannot stoop to this level. Junblatt's speech, however, constitutes a hostile trend against the regime. The fact is that all our adversaries are worried about our unified stand, which affirms the soundness of our decision to support the regime, the legitimate government, and the president of the Republic. This also shows the extent of our adversaries' fury over the extension of legitimacy and the Phalange Party's strength.

Karamah added: We, however, are fully prepared to confront these attacks. Since we prefer to settle this issue through political struggle and negotiations, we are able to answer all those campaigns which seek to cast doubt and presumption against Lebanon's symbols and the regime as necessary.

Dr Karamah also said that there can be no real Lebanese policy without a strong Phalange Party. The party cannot be strong unless it is able to adopt political stands.

Al-Huss, Birri, Junblatt To Visit Damascus

NC170709 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Ministers Dr Salim al-Huss, Nabih Birri, and Walid Junblatt are expected to visit Damascus today to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad and with Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam tomorrow.

They will hold consultations on new developments in light of the completion of the first phase of the Israeli withdrawal from Sidon and its environs, and the successful deployment of the Lebanese Army in the areas vacated by the occupation forces.

A leading ministerial source said that the talks will also deal with the political steps necessary to consolidate the national victory achieved in Sidon and to follow up the battle for liberating the remaining parts of the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya.

Mufti of the Republic Shaykh Hasan Khalid will visit Damascus next week. He will be followed by leaders of the Islamic grouping.

Al-Huss, Birri Return

NC182115 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Dr Salim al-Huss, minister of labor and education, and Attorney Nabih Birri, minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, returned to Beirut from Damascus this evening.

They were in Damascus for a brief visit, during which they and Minister Walid Junblatt met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

After these meetings, Minister al-Huss said: As you know, we made this visit to congratulate His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad on his reelection to the post of president of the Syrian Arab Republic. Our visit was also an opportunity to discuss all of Lebanon's affairs, particularly those of direct interest to Syria.

Answering a question on conditions in the government, and on the possibility that Ministers Birri and Junblatt might attend Cabinet meetings again, Minister al-Huss said: It is understood that the government will meet with all its members present when it calls for a discussion of the political file.

4 Killed, 41 Wounded in Beirut Explosion

NC181713 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Excerpts] We have learned from security sources that the (?explosion) in Al-Ruways [words indistinct] in the southern suburb near a coffee shop, was the result of an explosive charge going off in a Mercedes.

The device was estimated to contain 100 kilograms of TNT. According to preliminary reports, 4 persons were killed and 41 others were wounded. The wounded have been taken to the American University [word indistinct] and Al-Maqasid Hospitals.

Preliminary reports also state that damage occurred within a 100-meter radius. A number of (?shop windows) were shattered in addition to other property damage.

2 Israeli Officers Killed in Separate Incidents

NC190755 Paris AFP in English 0737 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] Tel Aviv, Feb 19 (AFP) — An Israeli colonel and a major were killed yesterday in ambushes in south Lebanon, a military spokesman said here today.

Colonel Avraham Hido, 41, responsible for liaison with the Israeli-Armed south Lebanese army (SLA), was killed when snipers fired on a car in which he was riding with retired Lebanese General Antoine Lahd, the SLA commander, near 'Arab Salim village. Two SLA militiamen were wounded.

Major Shlomo Zehavi, 27, was killed when a bomb went off under his car at the entrance to the Shia Moslem village of Al-Bazauriyah, east of Tyre. An Israeli soldier was killed on Sunday in the same region, a stronghold of pro-Iranian militias.

The spokesman said Israeli forces had put the entire region under curfew.

Israelis Reportedly Assassinate Amal Official

NC191025 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] Israeli enemy forces stormed the village of Tibnin at 0400 today after surrounding it with a large number of vehicles and troops. They assassinated Muhammad Mahmud Haydar, the Amal movement's information official in the village, while his parents watched. They also detained a number of the movement's members, including Ahmad Hammud, 'Ali Hammud, 'Abbas Haydar, Yusuf Haydar, and Muhammad al-Ashqar.

In another development, Lebanese national resistance fighters this morning attacked a roadblock manned by Israeli occupation forces near Al-Qulaylah village in the Tyre area. According to preliminary information, one Israeli soldier was killed. The enemy radio has admitted the attack, claiming that there were no casualties.

Al-Jumayyil, Al-Asad Discuss Israeli Withdrawal

JN170650 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Beirut — Last night, Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil telephoned President Hafiz al-Asad to inform him of the liberation of Sidon and its environs from the Israeli occupation, and of the Lebanese Army's entry into the area.

In his telephone conversation, the Lebanese president said that on this historic day, he would like to commend the support President Hafiz al-Asad and Syria have extended to Lebanon in its struggle to liberate its territory from the Israeli occupation.

The president thanked al-Jumayyil for his call and said that he wanted to contact President al-Jumayyil to congratulate him and the fraternal Lebanese people on this joint feast and accomplishment which is considered a victory for both Lebanon and Syria, as well as the Arab nation and everyone that cares for Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab cause. The president praised the fraternal Lebanese people's resistance and their national unity and the effect of this in achieving this victory. He requested President al-Jumayyil to convey his congratulations and good wishes to the fraternal Lebanese people.

Al-Shar' on Israeli Withdrawal From Lebanon

NC191005 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 18 Feb 85 p 3

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by *AL-SAFIR* correspondent Muwaffaq Madani in Damascus — date not given]

[Excerpts] Madani: The first stage of the Israeli withdrawal from the Sidon area has ended. What is the Syrian view and what is your view as the foreign minister on this delicate stage?

Al-Shar': It has been clear since the Israelis left the Al-Naqurah military talks that this withdrawal is just an expression of Israel's failure to impose its conditions and restrictions on the Lebanese side. Consequently, Israel's announcement of the unilateral withdrawal of its forces was just an attempt to cause confusion in Lebanon and to create a psychological state among the Lebanese citizens giving the impression that Israel was not forced to withdraw.

By announcing their intention to withdraw unilaterally, the enemy leaders sought to give the impression that they still hold the initiative in Lebanon. Their purpose was to minimize the Syrian-Lebanese victory which began with the cancellation of the 17 May agreement on the one hand, and the assertion of the failure of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon on the other. Furthermore, they sought to mislead the Lebanese people by making them believe that their situation under the Israeli occupation would be better than their situation in case of liberation from this occupation.

We must also not disregard the Israeli tactic in attempting to deepen the state of alarm both with regard to the Lebanese economic situation and to the possibility of strife and massacres in the areas from which the Israeli troops will withdraw.

Madani: Let us be practical. During the visit of President Amin al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Rashid Karami to Damascus, agreement was reached on steps regarding the south during the withdrawal and its aftermath. What are the steps required for this delicate stage?

Al-Shar': The visit of President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Karami to Damascus was for the purpose of congratulating President Hafiz al-Asad. It was natural that any Syrian-Lebanese meeting should deal with the common Lebanese concern. Indeed, an exchange of views took place on the latest developments in Lebanon in light of the Israeli withdrawal from some areas in south Lebanon.

A reaffirmation was made of the need to speed up the implementation of the security plans, which were agreed upon for the coastal area, to fill the vacuum in Sidon and its suburbs by the Lebanese Army and the Internal Security Forces so they can alone assume the responsibility for security in the area, and to open the Beirut-Damascus and the Beirut-Tripoli roads in the near future.

Agreement was also reached on the need to strengthen the Lebanese Government's role in dealing with the issues of political reforms and in promoting national accord. President Hafiz al-Asad asked Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to follow up these matters during an impending visit to Lebanon.

Madani: What about the fate of the Palestinian camps in the south during the stage of the Israeli withdrawals?

Al-Shar': We hope that the Palestinians in the camps, who suffered a great deal at the hands of the Israeli invasion forces on the one hand, and at the hands of some of their leaders on the other, have realized now that any harm that befalls Lebanon will befall them, too.

The victory of the Lebanese cause is a victory for their cause — the Palestinian cause. I am surprised that the question of the camps' security after the Israeli withdrawal should be raised by some while it was not raised under the Israeli occupation, despite the sufferings experienced by our Palestinian brothers during the Israeli occupation.

Madani: How do you see the fate of the Israeli occupation with regard to the second and third withdrawal stages?

Al-Shar': I have mentioned before that Israel would not withdraw unless it was compelled to do so. Just as it was compelled to withdraw now from some of the areas, it will be compelled to withdraw from all of Lebanon sooner or later as a result of the heroic Lebanese national resistance and the unlimited Syrian support.

We expect the resistance operations to escalate in the coming months to defeat the Israeli occupation forces and liberate Lebanon.

The resistance option remains the principal option in light of the present circumstances, and this is what the enemy realized before the friend did.

Rajjuh on Eventual Pull-Out From Lebanon

NC190935 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 18 Feb 85 p 3

[Report on interview with Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh by *AL-SAFIR* correspondent Muwaffaq Madani in Damascus — date not given]

[Excerpts] Syrian Information Minister Yasir Rajjuh has said: The Lebanese resistance against the Israeli occupation in the south clearly illustrates the Lebanese people's ability to shape their own destiny. The Lebanese resistance in the south embodies the Lebanese will. This resistance contradicts the Israeli claims that it is a Shi'ite resistance only. It is being carried out by Shi'ite, Druze, and Christian fighters.

The Syrian information minister continued: The will of the Lebanese resistance is a translation of the will of the Lebanese who are driving the Israelis out of Lebanon. The Lebanese resistance alone is capable of unifying Lebanon and of returning Lebanon to its position as a country imbued with rays of civilization.

Yasin Rajjuh added: There are realities [haqa'iq] in Lebanon. Each one of these must recognize and cooperate with the other, given that these realities constitute the present structure of Lebanon.

President Amin al-Jumayyil is a reality embodying the Lebanese legitimacy; the national unity government under Prime Minister Rashid Karami is also a reality embodying the national accord; the political forces, parties, and families are Lebanese realities; the mufti's office is a reality; [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah is a reality; Sa'ib Salam's family is a reality; and the Amal movement and Walid Junblatt are also realities in Lebanon. Syria cannot perform miracles, but it can give assistance. We can help achieve conciliation and accord. We can help by deterring if the legitimate authority asks us to deter. We can help establish security, but the effective forces in Lebanon alone are capable of ensuring security. Security cannot be attained by an army structured on sectarianism. Such an army can neither unify the areas nor ensure security. It will be an ineffective army made up of small groups and unable to perform the national tasks. This army must be unified to assume a unified mission in unified Lebanese areas.

Minister Rajjuh said: To return Syrian forces to assume security in Lebanon is out of the question. We need our forces because we have vast borders, from Turkey to the Golan. This requires that we safeguard our borders and homeland. We are waiting for the appropriate time to withdraw 12,000 Syrian soldiers from Lebanon to Syria so that our Army can carry out other national tasks. This of course depends on the Lebanese being able to handle the process of salvation in their country.

The Syrian minister said: Accordingly, it is out of the question for us to ensure security in Beirut. But it is not impossible for the Arab deterrent forces to return to Beirut to preserve security and help in deterring if the Lebanese Government asks us to do so.

The Syrian information minister said: The first phase of the Israeli withdrawal began in Sidon and its vicinity. We expect that the second phase will commence as soon as possible. We bet that this Israeli withdrawal will be comprehensive.

People's Assembly Marks Liberation of Sidon

JN171909 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] The People's Assembly has hailed the Lebanese people's struggle and national resistance and proudly praised the victory achieved at the hands of the Lebanese resistance heroes, who baptized this victory with blood and paid a heavy price for it with their lives and their most precious possession, thereby recalling the memories of the Algerian revolution and Vietnam. The Assembly affirmed that peoples fighting for their independence and freedom are bound to achieve final victory over their enemies, who reap only disappointment and shame from their crimes.

The People's Assembly held a session this evening under its speaker, Mahmud al-Zu'bi, attended by 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and other ministers. Addressing the assembly, Al-Zu'bi said: The flag of freedom waved today in the sky of liberated Sidon, whose liberation was the result of the steadfastness of its people and the sacrifices of the Lebanese people and the Lebanese national resistance, which has given a living example and clear proof that struggling peoples can wrest their freedom when they raise the rifle as the main weapon in the face of occupation.

Al-Zu'bi added: The Israeli withdrawal, which took place today from a dear part of the territory of fraternal Lebanon, was the result of the steadfastness of Syria and its heroic leader, struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, who has led and is leading the battles of liberation of every Arab territory with his courage, wisdom, and popular support.

Al-Zu'bi recalled leader Al-Asad's words in his speech to the people upon his reelection, especially when he said: We will repulse the enemy and end the invasion despite its boasts. The people are the great source of strength and right is the motive of sacrifice. Al-Zu'bi then congratulated the Lebanese people on their liberation of a dear part of their homeland and affirmed that the Lebanese people's continued national liberation struggle will ensure the liberation of the rest of the Lebanese territory.

Al-Zu'bi hailed the heroic Lebanese national resistance and affirmed that Al-Asad's Syria and Ba'thist Syria will continue to be the main supporter of fraternal Lebanon with all its capabilities. It will maintain its firm principled pan-Arab stands on all Arab issues and toward all progressive liberation movements in the world.

Several Assembly members then spoke. They reviewed the stages of the Lebanese issue, especially since the Zionist invasion. The erumerated the objectives of this aggressive invasion, pointing out the support given by U.S. imperialism, the multinational forces, and NATO to this invasion, how these objectives failed one after the other, and how these aggressive forces failed to carry out their plans thanks to Syria's steadfastness under leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad, its great sacrifices, and its foiling of the agreement of submission, as well as the Lebanese national resistance's repeated strikes and sucide operations against the invasion forces and their allies. The Assembly members hailed the Lebanese people and their resistance on their splendid victory. The also hailed leader President Hafiz al-Asad, the symbol of steadfastness, confrontation, and Arab struggle in the liberation battles for the sake of an Arab era that is free of all chains and internal and external challenges. They affirmed their support for his wise and courageous leadership until our objectives of reconstruction, victory, and liberation are achieved.

The Assembly then began discussion of a committee report on intermediate colleges in Syria.

Damascus on Resistance, Israeli Withdrawal

JN171252 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] When the Israeli invasion of Lebanon began, Begin said that Israel was avenging the October War's spirit and values. When the Palestinian resistance was forced to withdraw from Lebanon, and when Lebanon was forced to sign the 17 May agreement, many said that Lebanon became the second country, after Egypt, to sign a treaty with Israel. This was what the Zionist entity's leaders were predicting, foremost of whom was Ben-Gurion.

It is truly regrettable that many, who were supposed to continue the pan-Arab struggle march, mistakenly believed that the Israeli age had begun to rise and that the Arab age had begun to decline, and then began basing their calculations on this concept. Syria alone, under militant Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, stood against this new psychological war as it did against the capitulationist march initiated by Al-Sadat's regime. With strong determination to achieve victory, Syria alone said no to capitulation and to the new imperialist-Zionist hegemony. Moreover, it began to implement the goal of achieving a strategic balance with the Zionsit enemy. Syria said through its leader Al-Asad that the loss sustained in Lebanon was merely a short-term loss, and that through serious work to achieve this balance, a new stage of a national and pan-Arab renaissance would be achieved in Lebanon — a renaissance that would cleanse the shame of defeat and achieve victory.

The Lebanese nationalist resistance confirmed what President al-Asad had said. Thus, the stage of the steadfastness and resistance epic began to confirm that if a people are determined to liberate their land they will undoubtedly triumph. Syria placed all of its capabilities at the disposal of the Lebanese nationalist resistance which began to achieve the miracle and create the homeland's glory. The resistance actually began to achieve real victories as a result of Syria's backing and when the abrogation of the 17 May agreement became a reality. When the agreement was abrogated — an event that was regarded as a strategic victory for the Arab nation — the Israeli retreat began. The Israeli age became a mere illusion and the Arab age confirmed itself as Lebanon's only option.

As the resistance operations intensified and the Israeli losses in life and equipment escalated, Israel began to realize that withdrawal had become its only option. However, it refused to recognize this fact and through overt support from the U.S. Administration, it sought to achieve some gains with which it could justify the invasion to the Israelis. The military talks in Al-Naqurah were the framework through which Israel sought to achieve what it failed to achieve through the invasion and the 17 May agreement. When Israel failed to achieve any gains, it resorted to the idea of a phased withdrawal. It began to spread rumors that massacres and sedition may follow its withdrawal from the south, while exerting actual pressure through its tools to destroy the Lebanese economy in a clear attempt to lessen the impact of the Israeli failure in Lebanon. Despite all this, the resistance operations escalated to force Israel to withdraw.

While we do not want to exaggerate the true dimension of the victory achieved in Sidon yesterday, we will merely report some remarks that leaked from the occupied territories. These remarks expressed that the Israeli circles regard the withdrawal of its forces from southern Lebanon as the first time Israel withdrew its forces from Arab territory under the pressure of fedayeen oeprations. This has a far-reaching implication regarding the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the Arab-Zionist confict in general. This practically confirms that the resistance option is the only option that will force Israel to withdraw, and that the option of exchanging land for peace will only lead to achieving Israeli objectives and ambitions.

Al-Asad Meets With Lebanese Ministers

JN181647 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus, 18 Feb (SANA) — President Hafiz al-Asad received here today Dr Salim al-Huss, Lebanese minister of education and health; Nabih Birri, Lebanese minister of justice and hydroelectric resources, and minister of state for the south and reconstruction; and Walid Junblatt, Lebanese minister of public works, transport, and tourism. The ministers congratulated the president on the people's renewal of confidence in his leadership and on his unanimous reelection to a new constitutional term.

President al-Asad thanked the three ministers for their congratulations and asked them to convey his thanks and greetings to the fraternal Lebanese people.

The talks revolved around the situation in the Lebanese arena in light of the recent developments and the withdrawal of the Israeli invasion forces from the city of Sidon and its outskirts. The three ministers expressed their thanks and those of the Lebanese people for the efforts Syria has exerted under President al-Asad and for the support it extended to help Lebanon liberate its territory from the Israeli occupation.

President al-Asad stressed the importance of reinforcing Lebanese national unity and accelerating moves to achieve national accord to complete the march of liberation from the Israeli occupation — an accord whose success was crowned by the victory achieved in liberating the city and outskirts of Sidon. Bolstering of the Lebanese people's resistance against the Israeli occupation and the need for supporting this resistance were also stressed.

Reagan Thanks Al-Asad on American's Safe Return

JN170646 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Last night, U.S. President Ronald Reagan telephoned President Hafiz al-Asad and thanked him for the efforts he and Syria have exerted for the safe return of U.S. journalist Jeremy Levin. President Reagan said that Levin's return had a considerable effect on the U.S. public. He hoped that Syria's efforts will help other kidnappees to return safely.

President Reagan also congratulated President Hafiz al-Asad on his reelection as president of the Syrian Arab Republic and wished him continued good health. President Hafiz al-Asad thanked him for his congratulations and emphasized to him Syria's appreciation of the importance of the humanitarian aspect of the safe return of Levin and other kidnappees. President Hafiz al-Asad reciprocated Reagan's good wishes.

Justice Minister Al-Maliki Leaves For Cyprus

JN161822 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus, 16 Feb (SANA) — Justice Minister Khalid al-Maliki left Damascus for Cyprus this afternoon at the head of a judicial delegation to hold negotiations with officials at the Cypriot Justice Ministry on an agreement on judicial cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Justice Minister Al-Maliki Visits Cyprus

For Nicosia Domestic coverage of the visit to Cyprus by Justice Minister Khalid al-Maliki and his meetings with Cypriot leaders, including President Kiprianou, Justice Minister Dhimitrio Liveras, and Foreign Minister Yeoryios Iakovou, see the Cyprus section of the 19 February Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Coverage of IDF Evacuation From Sidon Area

Evacuation of Sidon Completed

TA161320 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] The IDF has completed the evacuation of the western sector of southern Lebanon. This has been reported by our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal, from the area:

[Begin recording] [Minister Rabin] According to the Cabinet decision, we are implementing the first phase of the IDF redeployment. The timing was set for up to 18 February and is being implemented today for various considerations.

[Tal] How do you expect this area to appear after we withdraw? What can be expected here, and do we care what happens here?

[Rabin] First, we do care. We would like to hand the area over in a very orderly fashion. To our regret, the Lebanese Government, formally, through the United Nations, has not cooperated. They found various types of local coordination with the Lebanese force and I hope that, as a result of this, the area will be handed over in an orderly fashion. [end recording]

The soldiers from the Lebanese Army who crossed the Al-Awwali River and entered Sidon are the 12th Brigade. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that although Israel's desire to hand over the area to the Lebanese Government in an orderly fashion has not been made possible, certain types of local cooperation with the Lebanese Army have been found.

What will happen after the IDF departure, Rabin said, will be the sole responsibility of the Lebanese Government. If there are actions against us, we will find a way to react. What concerns Israel is what will now happen in the area where the IDF is continuing to maintain control, because it is in that area where the main attacks have occurred.

Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi said the evacuation is being conducted as it should and the decision on the second phase depends on the Cabinet.

The commander of the Northern Command, Ori Or, said he does not regret the departure and the new line is intended to guarantee that no terrorist infrastructure will be established. Our military correspondent adds that forces from the army of southern Lebanon [ASL] have taken over the (Falus) junction on the road from Jazzin to Sidon.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports from the Beirut broadcasting stations that Israeli helicopters dropped leaflets this afternoon on Sidon and the Shi'ite villages surrounding it, with a declaration that the IDF will strike very heavily at any place from which there is any terrorist action against Israel. Southern Lebanon will live in peace, the leaflets say, on condition that the residents of Galilee also enjoy it. The leaflets emphasize that the return of peace, security, and stability to southern Lebanon is a basic Israeli interest.

IDF Spokesman's Announcement

TA161402 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1338 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Here is the IDF spokesman's announcement: The IDF has completed the first phase of our forces' evacuation of Lebanon, in accordance with the Cabinet decision of 14 January. The IDF forces have evacuated the Sidon area and the Al-Zahrani River and are now redeploying, until the second phase of the plan for the evacuation of Lebanon. The evacuation met with no disruptions. Since the Cabinet decision, the IDF has taken all possible measures for the transfer of the area in an orderly fashion to the Lebanese Administration. The IDF has, during this period, maintained intensive contacts with the administration staff, with the Lebanese Army, and with other bodies, to explain and coordinate the entry of Lebanese forces into the area evacuated by the IDF.

The evacuation was implemented after local coordination between IDF commanders and the commanders from the Lebanese Army. The IDF will continue with the close contacts with the population of southern Lebanon, with an approach of good neighborliness, while safeguarding calm and security. At the same time, the IDF will act firmly against terrorists who try to attack it or the State of Israel and its citizens. All the elements in the area were informed in advance of the expected departure, with adequate early warning at their request, so that they should be able to get organized accordingly.

Our correspondent adds that the IDF has distributed leaflets to the population of southern Lebanon, emphasizing the importance of keeping calm in the area and the risks the inhabitants are taking upon themselves if terrorists return to their area.

Moshe Levi on Evacuation

TA161412 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1315 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] The chief of staff has said: I believe the Lebanese Army will deploy itself and, in this context, a coalition of various bodies will try to test the balance among them. In the first stage, this will be without the use of fire.

Here is the evaluation of Chief of Staff Lt Gen Moshe Levi:

[Begin recording] [Levi] After they sent the journalists and civilian trucks forward, the forces of the Lebanese Army — not private Lebanese — began entering the town; this is exactly the situation. Our movement from the ridge of the hill will begin in another few minutes. I believe that, in the wake of this movement, they will continue with their entry inward.

[Unidentified IDF military correspondent] What do you expect to happen here in this area after we leave?

[Levi] I believe the Lebanese Army will deploy itself, and I also believe that all sorts of coalitions of various bodies will try, in the first stage, to test the balance among them. Whether or not that stage will be stable is something hard for me to predict. I believe that in the first stage there will be tests; I am even prepared to say, without firing.

[Correspondent] How long until the implementation of the second phase?

[Levi] It is a matter of estimation. For the implementation, there are logistic factors and factors of decison; when these two meet, I will be able to tell you what the period of time will be.

[Correspondent] Would you also say a few words about how you feel about leaving Sidon today?

[Levi] I feel fine. [end recording]

General Or on Evacuation

TA161430 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1325 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Interview with the commander of the Northern Command, Major General Ori Or, by Ilana Dayan 16 Feburary; place not given — recorded]

[Text][Dayan] Major General Or, are you pleased with the speed of the evacuation of the last IDF forces from the Sidon area?

[Or] Yes, it is going as planned.

[Dayan] At the end of the week you said you would not shed a tear when we left Sidon. Is your feeling really something like that?

[Or] Are you shedding a tear? Nor am I. I have not planted any tree here; it is not mine; I have nothing to do here.

[Dayan] Maj Gen Or, are you prepared to comment on the new line where the IDF is to be positioned today; what, in fact, are its advantages and disadvantages?

[Or] It is not easy. It is a temporary deployment, simply aimed at guaranteeing that there will be no infrastructure in the new deployment and that the northern border will be calm. And this is not a line, it is a temporary deployment by IDF forces, aimed at safeguarding the area against terrorist activity against the State of Israel's border, until all the phases are completed. It does not resemble the Al-Awwali line.

[Dayan] Do you think that the developments in the near future in this area will lead to a renewed consolidation of the terrorists here?

[Or] In the area we are evacuating? We do not know. There are many evaluations — Syria will invade; the Lebanese Army is entering. If it succeeds in keeping some sort of calm here, that will make it dificult for them [presumably for the Syrians]. If they do not succeed, then terrorists will take over, that is, hostile elements, let us say, from all the various sources.

[Dayan] As for the coming phases, do you think the increase in the wave of terrorism could accelerate the second phase of the evacuation, or does it not depend on this?

[Or] No, it does not depend on that. We also have answers to the increase in the waves of terrorism. The Cabinet decision calls for implementation in phases, and we are acting in accordance with that. The problem does not depend on the Army. There is a Cabinet decision [words indistinct] either on terrorism or the Army. Do you understand what I mean?

[Dayan] As far as matters depend on the Army, when do you see the IDF back home?

[Or] That does not depend on the Army.

Rabin on Evacuation

TA161708 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1605 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Ilana Dayan "in the Sidon area today" — recorded]

[Text] [Dayan] The defense minister said: What happens here after the evacuation does interest us; we do care how the forces acting in the area react. It is a pity that the Lebanese Government did not agree to take over the evacuated sector in an orderly fashion. Now the entire responsibility is theirs.

Yitzhaq Rabin said: We found ways to talk with the Lebanese Army, to coordinate the transfer of the area, and we are satisfied with its entry.

To the question of how Israel will act if there is a renewed consolidation of terrorist forces in the area, the defense minister replied:

[Rabin] What does that mean, if the terrorists return? The terrorists are in Sidon. It is impossible to proclaim that all the terrorists have been eliminated. There are different types of terrorists. Their numbers here can, of course be increased. Sidon can also be turned into a center of hostile activity, there could be an atmosphere of hostility and terrorism against Israel or the IDF in the area in which we are remaining in Lebanon. If this happens, we will have to find the ways to act.

[Dayan] Mr Rabin, how do you evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of the new line the IDF is to position itself on today?

[Rabin] It is worth remembering that the Cabinet decision spoke of a redeployment in three phases. The area taken over today by the IDF cannot be seen as a line; it is just one stage in the full conception of how the IDF will deploy to defend Galilee. Therefore, there is no point in a precise evaluation, now, of the significance of that line.

[Dayan] Sir, you are considered to be the father of the term Gordian knot concerning the situation in Lebanon. Do you think that we are beginning to untie that Gordian knot today?

[Rabin] I do not, for the moment, want to comment on what has been; I would like to comment on the present and the future. Under today's conditions, the Cabinet decision about the IDF redeployment is, in my view, the best possible, most desirable solution facing us.

[Dayan] A last glance; one more explanation; the defense minister and the chief of staff enter their vehicles and move away from Sidon. The last armored personnel carriers begin to move southward, toward Jazzin.

Background to Early Withdrawal

TA171115 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 17 Feb 85 p 3

[Report by Ilan Kfir and Hayim Ravya]

[Text] The decision to withdraw to the interim line 2 days ahead of schedule was meant to avert a spate of attacks against the IDF, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres disclosed. In talks with Cabinet ministers, Peres said that the main thrust by the terrorist organizations had been scheduled for Monday, 18 February 1985, the day of the completion of the interim pullout according to the Cabinet decision.

The decision to bring the withdrawal forward by 2 days was made in a special consultation held by Prime Minister Peres and Defense Minister Rabin. The chief of staff informed Peres and Rabin that the IDF was prepared to bring forward the withdrawal from Sidon.

The political-defense inner Cabinet met on Friday at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem to discuss the Husayn-'Arafat initiative. In the meeting, Peres and Rabin informed the ministers of the decision to withdraw on Saturday. The religious party ministers accepted this decision because they regarded it a matter of life or death.

The meetings of the political-defense inner Cabinet are classified and their contents cannot be divulged. A reconstruction carried out by *HADASHOT*, shows that the decision was made as early as last Sunday, 12 February. Prior to the Cabinet session, the prime minister was informed that three soldiers had been killed in Lebanon; he took it very hard. Later, Peres said: "This was a sad day, four funerals in one single day are too much." (Another soldier died of his wounds during that weekend.)

Peres was surprised by the public criticism leveled by senior ministers over the Cabinet decision adopted by a majority of 16 to 6, and he conveyed his bitterness to Yitzhaq Shamir. Peres still believes that there is a stable majority in the Cabinet in favor of implementing the next stages of the withdrawal.

The political efforts to avert massacres among the warring factions in Lebanon lasted until the order to evacuate was issued yesterday morning. All the special envoys, both U.S. and UN officials, who were traveling the Jerusalem-Damascus-Beirut axis returned empty-handed. Vague promises by the Lebanese Government to allow UNIFIL to deploy in the areas evacuated by the IDF remained on paper. To this day, the Lebanese Government has not asked the UN secretary general to change UNIFIL's mandate.

In view of its disappointment, with the position of Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, Israel made a secret move during the last few days which was disclosed by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Contacts moved directly to the field, and in deliberations between Israeli commanders and figures and commanders of the army of southern Lebanon, it was decided that Lebanese Army units would march into Sidon and take positions in sensitive areas.

Israel distributed pamphlets in the Sidon area warning the local population that the IDF would strike any place from which terrorist attacks are launched, and that southern Lebanon would live in peace if the inhabitants of the Galilee are also allowed to live in peace.

Reaction to IDF Withdrawal From City of Sidon

Al-Jumayyil Speech Prompts Warning

TA181058 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 18 Feb 85 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir and Gay Bekhor]

[Excerpt] Israel will send a firm warning to Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil in reaction to his provocative remarks against Israel and his encouragement of terrorism. Jerusalem is warning the Lebanese president not to incite his people to rebel against the IDF, and is asking him to prevent a disruption of the IDF withdrawal from Lebanon.

Israel will explain to Al-Jumayyil, through the United States, that if terrorism continues, and if there is renewed danger to the safety of the Galilee villages, it reserves the right to again strike at terrorists in southern Lebanon and any other place in Lebanon, with all the serious ramifications this would have for Lebanon and its president.

Al-Jumayyil's surprise visit to Sidon, during which he made provocative remarks against Israel and the IDF, caused surprise and anger in Jerusalem. Yesterday sources assessed that Al-Jumayyil has completely lost his independence, and is acting under Syrian influence out of fear for his life.

A political figure in Jerusalem yesterday said sadly: "It seems that Amin al-Jumayyil — who for months barricaded himself in his B'abda Palace out of fear for his life — has gone crazy. Otherwise he would not have traveled to Sidon and incited against Israel, thanks to which the Al-Jumayyil family was returned to the palace."

Lubrani on Calm in Sidon

TA161544 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] The coordinator of activities in Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, attributes the calm prevailing in Sidon, following the evacuation, to the coordinating activities carried out by IDF officers. Lubrani told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that up to the last moments of the IDF stay in the Sidon area, the contacts continued with organizations, families, and influential groups, and they promised to stop bloody battles in the town, as far as possible. Lubrani added that the contacts with the various elements in Lebanon would continue in preparation for the continuation of the evacuation.

Defense Minister Rabin on Relations With Lebanon

No 4th Winter in Lebanon

TA181402 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1350 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that under no circumstances will the IDF spend a fourth winter in Lebanon. The defense minister said that a withdrawal from southern Lebanon is not the best solution to terrorism against Israel, but it is the least of all evils. The defense minister also does not see any chance, in the near future, of uprooting the sources of terrorism in southern Lebanon. He said that the extremist Shi'ite organizations are for Israel a potentially greater threat than the PLO. The defense minister, speaking at a Tel Aviv University meeting on Israeli-Lebanese relations, said he sees no danger in the Syrian presence in Lebanon.

Minister Rabin further disclosed that the terrorist squad captured last week in the course of its attempt to cross the Al-Awwali River, belongs to Abu Musa's [Sa'd Musa Muragha] group. As will be recalled, in an encounter with the IDF, 11 terrorists were killed and 9 others were captured. The terrorists were instructed to move through the Al-Shuf area as quickly as possible to reach the refugee camps in the Sidon area, and establish a stronghold for that group there.

Foresees No Syrian Provocation

TA181632 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that he regards Lebanese terrorism as Israel's central security problem in the near future, but he would rather combat it with the IDF deployed behind the international border. There will be no solution in Lebanon without risks, Rabin said, including sporadic katyusha fire here and there.

As for Syria, it constitutes no real danger from Lebanon as long as its soldiers are deployed more or less along the lines they presently occupy. The defense minister said he does not believe Syria will directly provoke Israel through Lebanon, since Syria prefers to fight Israel to the last Shi'ite or Palestinian. President al-Jumayyil's declaration in Sidon, expressing support for increased terrorism against Israel, reflects the fact that in Lebanon the concept of loyalty is worthless and meaningless. Yitzhaq Rabin was speaking at a seminar on Israel and Lebanon held by the strategic research institute of Tel Aviv University.

Lebanese Terrorism Key Problem

TA181906 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1830 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Tel Aviv, 18 Feb (ITIM) — Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin expressed his opinion that the Lebanese terror is today the key security problem facing Israel. Mr Rabin said this today in a lecture he gave during a study day on the subject "Israel and Lebanon — Current Picture" sponsored by the Jaffe Center for Strategic Studies at the Tel Aviv University.

The speech by the defense minister was preceded by remarks by the chairman of the Israeli Druze Followup Committee, Dr Fadil Mansur, who referred to the condition of the Druze in Lebanon. In his opinion, it is possible to solve the problem of the 300,000 Druze there, if equal rights are given to the various communities. In his opinion, it is unacceptable for any community there to receive special rights. In this context he noted that the Druze in Lebanon want partition into regions "and it makes no difference whether this is called cantonization of Lebanon, or something else." In answer to a question he said that only Syria has opened its stores to Junblatt and his people, hence the relations maintained between the Druze and the Syrians.

Mr Pierre Yazbiq, the head of the Christian Lebanese representation in Jerusalem, expressed his satisfaction with the fact that the first phase of the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon passed peacefully. He said he hopes the next stages will also pass that way. "We hoped that other foreign forces would also leave, but we were disappointed; Syria is even strengthening its hold on Lebanon. The Christian forces hoped that both Syrians and Israelis would withdraw."

The speaker added: "We call for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, since every additional day it stays leads to further consolidation of the forces against the Christians in Lebanon."

Reportage on Remaining Stages of Withdrawal

2d Phase in 2-3 Weeks

TA170730 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Military sources say that the first phase of the withdrawal from Lebanon was successful, and note that it was implemented more quickly than expected. According to these sources, the eastern sector can now be evacuated within 10 to 12 weeks from the time the Cabinet decides to do so. More changes will take place in 2 or 3 weeks. This morning the Cabinet will hear a report on the first phase of the withdrawal. The debate on the next steps will begin once the prime minister returns from his visit to Italy and Romania. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports from the studio:

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres believes that the IDF will deploy on the international border with Lebanon according to the timetable decided by the Cabinet, and that pressure by local Lebanese groups, or by political forums in Israel, will not affect the decision. Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin are determined to end Israel's involvement in Lebanon and see this as the top national goal. As said, the debate on the continuation of the withdrawal will start immediately after Peres returns from his visit to Italy and Romania. The next phase of the withdrawal will therefore start in approximately 2 to 3 weeks.

In talks with Likud ministers we have learned that they do not intend to try to change the Cabinet's decision at the moment, primarily because IDF soldiers are deployed along a line that passes through the Shi'ite communities in Lebanon and is extremely difficult to defend. Nevertheless, the dispute will probably be renewed as the completion of the withdrawal approaches. It will center on the type of deployment and forces that will remain in the security strip in southern Lebanon. The ministers will hear an assessment this morning to the effect that, contrary to previously expressed opinions, no massacres are anticipated in the areas to be evacuated by the IDF, because the forces in southern Lebanon are not interested in this, but rather in the early departure of the IDF.

The political activity concerning the completion of the first stage of the withdrawal over the weekend was contained in an announcement relayed yesterday morning to the political attache at the U.S. Embassy in Israel, to various members of the United Nations, and to representatives of the International Red Cross. In the afternoon, the defense minister informed the prime minister of the completion of the withdrawal, and Shim'on Peres asked him to congratulate the chief of staff, commanders, and the IDF soldiers on the orderly execution of the task.

2d Phase Report Denied

TA180751 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Feb 85 pp 1, 2

[Report by defense correspondents Hirsh Goodman and Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Tyre and Al-Nabatiyah will not be left under South Lebanese Army [SLA] control when Israel completes its withdrawal from south Lebanon, senior defence sources told *THE JERUSALEM POST* yesterday.

It has been previously reported that the central market town of Al-Nabatiyah and the port town of Tyre would remain inside an SLA-controled security belt. The SLA will therefore be in charge of basically the same area that it held prior to the June 1982 Israeli invasion.

Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said yesterday that the defence establishment would closely monitor developments in Lebanon in the next 7 to 21 days, and that its findings would serve as the basis for recommendations to the government regarding the next stage of the IDF's withdrawal.

Speaking on television's Erev Hadash ["New Evening"] just one day after the completion of the first stage of the pullout, Rabin said Israel wants to examine the implications of the move, the extent to which the Lebanese Army is capable of controlling the vacated area, and the relations between the various Palestinian and other groups there.

Senior defence sources categorically denied a report on Israel Radio that the next stage of the pullback would be within two to three weeks.

THE POST has learned that at the end of the three-stage pullout, the defence establishment intends to withdraw all Israeli forces — apart from a token force which will continue to cooperate with the SLA — to behind the international border. The security belt will extend from the Mediterranean to the foothills of Mount Hermon, and will lie south of the Al-Litani River. It is still unknown exactly how many soliders Israel will leave in Lebanon to advise the SLA. The SLA will be primarily composed of Christians from the security belt, although military sources have not ruled out the possibility of cooperation from Shi'ite villagers in the south, whose relationship with the SLA and the IDF has been cordial in the past.

In yesterday's TV interview, Rabin maintained that the IDF's ability to take steps on the basis of new developments was precisely the reason for pulling back in stages and not "in one swoop, to withdraw completely."

Once attempts to reach a political settlement had failed, the government decided to withdraw to the international border and to create a security belt so that the Army could return to its characteristic mode of operation, rather than spread troops out over large hostile areas, he added.

"Terror in Lebanon exists. We will have to continuue tackling it, (but) we want to tackle it differently," he said.

Earlier, the defence minister said he knows terrorist attacks will continue. In the past three weeks, most such attacks occurred in the area Israel planned to vacate mainly during the third stage of withdrawal, he noted.

The next stage — he did not say when it would take place — envisages a pullback in the eastern secotor facing the Syrians. He said he believes small Syrian units will move southwards, but not very far. Nor is it clear whether Syria will retain as big a force in Lebanon as it has there now. In the IDF and other "sectors" people are discussing whether it would really be so bad for Israel that some of the Syrian Army will be in the northern Al-Biqa' rather than the Golan, he added.

Rabin did not say whether the agreement Jordan's King Husayn had recently concluded with 'Arafat constitutes progress toward peace. It is a very vague agreement, he said. It helps the so-called "moderate" Arab governments win public relations points in the U.S., even though it is not clear whether the PLO agrees Jordan should negotiate a deal and that the talks would be limited to the participation of Israel, Egypt, and the U.S.

He opposed Likud suggestions to amend the law to make it possible to prosecute people such as MK's Muhammad Mi'ari and Matityahu Peled of the Progressive List for Peace [PLP] for meeting 'Arafat.

"I don't think we need another law," Rabin said. Each case must be judged on its merits and the attorney general is capable of deciding on the basis of the present law when and if to press charges.

Rabin went on to recall that PLP leader Uri Avneri had not been proescuted when he went to West Beirut in 1982 to meet 'Arafat, and that was when the Likud's Menahem Begin was Prime Minister.

He also rebuffed former Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon's criticism of him for having granted *TIME* magazine an interview after Sharon had sued time for libel. "I don't think Sharon refrained from granting *TIME* interviews before the rupture," Rabin told the TV interviewer. He added he had no quarrel with *TIME* magazine and therefore saw no reason to deny it an interview.

Complete Withdrawal in August

TA181216 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Feb 85 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Excerpt] Top sources in the Defense Ministry have consolidated a timetable: The second stage of the withdrawal will be completed by the end of April, and the third stage — which means the IDF's withdrawal to the international border — will be completed in August. This timetable has been prepared on the basis of operational plans prepared by the General Staff. The dates are a result of the difficult weather conditions in the eastern sector during February and March. At the same time, however, the evacuation of surplus equipment from this sector has already begun, and in the next 2 months the evacuation will gradually continue. It should be noted that the General Staff already has operational plans and only the order for evacuation is necessary now.

By the end of the second stage, the IDF forces will have evacuated a relatively broad area in the eastern sector and will have deployed along the Hasbayya line.

3 IDF Soldiers Killed in Separate Incidents

Sergeant Killed Near Tyre

TA171819 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] One IDF soldier was killed and three wounded at noon today in the area of the village of Al-Bazuriyah, east of Tyre. The family of the dead soldier has been informed. The IDF spokesman announced that a roadside bomb was detonated as an IDF convoy was traveling in the area. The wounded soldiers were evacuated to the hospital. The date of the funeral of the dead soldier will announced.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the bomb weighed 15 kg and was planted near the gas station at the entrance to the Shi'ite village of Al-Bazuriyah. The incident site is located in a region which is the radical Shi'ites' stronghold. Last week the IDF carried out stiff combing operations in the villages of Tura and Burj Rahhal, dozens of suspects were detained there, and eight houses were torn down. In sermons delivered over the weekend, Shi'ite clergymen reiterated their call to their followers to launch attacks against the IDF soldiers.

Lahd Adviser, Officer Killed

TA190527 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] Two IDF officers were killed in two separate incidents in southern Lebanon yesterday — Colonel Avraham Hido, age 41 from Kibbutz Shefayim, and Sha'ul Zehavi, age 29 from Petah Tiqva.

Col Avraham Hido, the Israeli adviser to Antoine Lahd, commander of the ASL, was killed in an incident north of Al-Nabatiyah, near the village of 'Arab Salim. It was reported that he was traveling in a convoy, together with General Lahd's deputy. When the convoy crossed the Al-Zahrani bridge, light arms fire and RPG's were fired at them. Avraham Hido jumped from his vehicle and returned the fire. In the exchanges he was mortally wounded and died on the way to the hospital.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht notes that in the past a squad of terrorists had been caught in 'Arab Salim. This squad was responsible for attacks on IDF soldiers, and it turned out that its commander was the commander of the civilian guards who operated under the auspices of the IDF. This commander was taking orders from the village's immam, who is the brother of the Shi'ite leader in Lebanon Mahdi Shams al-Din.

The other incident, in which Major Sha'ul Zehavi was killed, occurred near the village of Al-Bazauriyah east of Tyre, almost the same place where Sergeant Avramov was killed 2 days ago. A roadside bomb exploded as an IDF convoy passed by. Major Zehavi was killed on the spot, and another soldier was slightly wounded.

IDF Moves To Reinforce Border With Lebanon

TA171658 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1610 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Southern Lebanon, 17 Feb (ITIM) — The Israeli-Lebanon border (the Purple Line) was reinforced last weekend, and has returned to the same standard in which it was operated before the Peace for Galilee operation.

The ITIM correspondent in the north, Shlomo Hadad, reports that upon the completion of the first phase of the withdrawal, the Purple Line units have returned to their posts, where they are in charge of routine security.

In the northern settlements security and alertness were also strengthened last weekend. "We do not want the settlements to panic, but we want the security responsibilities to be taken seriously — ensuring the maintenance of a proper level of alert — as was the case before the war," explained IDF officers to the heads of the settlements.

During last month the IDF Engineering Corps soldiers have worked hard at improving the Purple Line by adding new fences. The aim is to finish the improvement of the line even before the second phase of the IDF withdrawal has ended.

David Levi Reassures Settlers

TA171938 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] The Israeli-Lebanese border area was reinforced by the IDF soldiers on the weekend. The border returned to the conditions prior to the entry of the IDF into Lebanon. The Qiryat

Shemona mayor sent telegrams to the prime minister, ministers, and Knesset members, in which he demanded that they take better care of Qiryat Shemona due to its security problems. Deputy Prime Minister David Levi has rejected the demand, saying that help should always be extended to Qiryat Shemona, that sweets should not be handed out due to one problem or another. Mr Levi suggested that the Qiryat Shemona town leaders not cause panic, since the IDF will do everything it can to defend the Galilee.

Chief of Staff Moshe Levi today toured a number of confrontation settlements along the border with Lebanon. The chief of staff visited Shelomi, accompanied with senior officers who deal with the security of the settlements in the north. They met the members of the local council and heard about problems involving defense and shelters. From there the chief of staff proceeded to Shomera and to the Druze village of Hurfeish. He explained to them what is expected after the withdrawal. Our correspondent Moti 'Eden reports that the chief of staff visited Hurfeish since in the past the Druze were indignant about the fact that the defense establishment leaders met only with the heads of the Jewish border settlements. The visit in the north ended with a tour along the border fence, as far as Metulla.

Gilbo'a Skeptical About Lebanese Army Deployment

TA181611 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Interview with Brigadier General 'Amos Gilbo'a, who headed the Israel team to the Al-Naqurah talks with Lebanon, by Eldad Beck; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Gilbo'a] Our clear line is that the Al-Naqurah talks, as a framework, are not defunct. Naturally, our obvious line is to continue to maintain this framework. However, the Lebanese have presented such conditions for the resumption of the talks that they have, for the time being, become absolutely worthless. Given the way the Lebanese have presented their positions, I believe the chances for a resumption of the talks are very slim. If a substantial change occurs in the Lebanese positions — in other words, in the Syrian positions — I believe we could resume the tlaks. In any case, I would like to point out to you that the Israeli Cabinet's decision of 14 January includes an explicit clause stating that the Israeli Government will continue to strive for comprehensive political settlements.

[Beck] The argument the Lebanese repeatedly raised in the course of the Al-Naqurah talks was that the Lebanese Army is really capable of controlling areas which will be evacuated by the IDF. Israel, on the other hand, rejected this and demanded that UNIFIL enter those areas, and that in addition there be a security strip controlled by the army of southern Lebanon. Doesn't the quiet that currently prevails in Sidon prove the Lebanese argument to be true?

[Gilbo'a] In the Al-Naqurah talks we never expressed any objection to the Lebanese Army entering Sidon. We had no problem with the Lebanese Army deploying in the areas from the Al-Zahrani northward. Our objection was to the presence of the Lebanese Army in the critical zone close to our border. Now the Lebanese have introduced almost two brigades into Sidon. I cannot envision a Lebanese capability to further deploy similar sized units in the rest of southern Lebanon.

Syrian Minister on Withdrawing Troops From Lebanon

TA181126 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1107 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Syria's information minister, Yasin Rajjuh, has told a Lebanese newspaper that if the circumstances permit, Syria would like to withdraw 12,000 soldiers from Lebanon. He told *AL-SAFIR* that it would not be possible to have Syrian forces return to the Lebanese interior to maintain order. Rajjuh said that Syria needed its troops to guard the frontier with Turkey, on the Golan Heights, and for what he termed national duties.

Cabinet Discusses IDF Withdrawal, U.S.-Soviet Talks

TA171231 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1150 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer — live]

[Text] A long series of issues was raised today in the Cabinet's weekly session. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin briefed the ministers on the completion of the first phase of the wtihdrawal from Lebanon. He said that the IDF had no choice, that operational considerations required the IDF to evacuate Sidon on Saturday to save lives. Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said that we must remember that the IDF is active in Lebanon during the entire week, and therefore it was also active on Saturday. The religious representatives in the government raised this issue, expressing their anger over the end of the evacuation on Saturday. Minister Yosef Shapira said that the IDF chief rabbi should have been consulted before the decision was made.

Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir briefed the ministers on the meetings that will be held between U.S. and Soviet representatives in Vienna in 2 days. Minister Shamir told the ministers that the location of Vienna was decided as a compromise, because both sides wanted the meetings to be held in their captial. In the Vienna talks the Americans will raise the issues of the Israeli-Arab conflict, Lebanon, and the Iran-Iraq war. The Americans also asked to raise the issue of Afghanistan in these talks, but the Soviets rejected this. The Americans made it clear that these talks are not to prepare for an international conference on the Middle East, but only to establish a mechanism to prevent complications and hostilities. The U.S. delegation was well briefed by the U.S. secretary of state not to raise any suggestion, and not to agree to discuss the issue of an international conference to settle the Middle East conflict. Minister Shamir also said that the Americans have also promised Israel to raise the issue of Soviet Jewry.

Other issues raised in today's session: Minister Ari'el Sharon asked permission to raise the possibility of appointing mayors in the West Bank. Shim'on Peres refused, saying that the issue must be discussed in an orderly manner, and that Minister Sharon should present a clear proposal on this issue. Another issue was the allocations to religious institutions. The Cabinet decided that Ministers Moda'i and Burg will determine the criteria and will present this to the Cabinet, and if they cannot reach an agreement the Prime Minister will also get involved in the matter.

The Cabinet rejected the proposal for a draft law presented by Finance Minister Moda'i on ways to control government spending and ensure that the state budget is adhered to. There was a difficult debate on this issue, and there were interesting exchanges on this. Finally, in today's session Prime Minister Shim'on Peres addressed the Husayn-'Arafat agreement. Shim'on Peres said... [Break in transmission].

Peres on Husayn-PLO Contacts

TA171254 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1247 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Here are more details on today's Cabinet session: In today's session the prime minister addressed the recent contacts between King Husayn and the PLO, saying that Israel remains faithful to the peace process according to the Camp David accords. Shim'on Peres said that Israel again calls on King Husayn to enter unconditional negotiations with it. Israel guarantees it will seriously discuss any suggestion raised by him.

Cabinet Approves Additional Budget

TA171329 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The Cabinet has approved an additional budget for this year totalling 1.125 trillion shekels. It has also decided to approve the building of additional classrooms to prevent second shift studies next year. The Cabinet instructed the finance and energy and infrastructure ministers to find ways to finance research on the desirability of beginning the first stage of the Dead Sea canal project.

Further on Budget Changes

TA171600 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] A number of ministers have leveled criticism at the finance minister's proposal intended to prevent deviations from the budget in the coming fiscal year. Deputy Prime Minister David Levi believes the proposal runs counter to existing laws and will make it difficult to operate the government offices. He told our correspondent Gadi Sukenik that the attorney general is of the same opinion. Labor and Social Affairs Minister Moshe Qatzav said that the proposed law will prevent the ministers from implementing Knesset decisions. According to Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal, the finance minister's proposal is far-reaching and unnecessary. During the Cabinet meeting, Economics and Planning Minister Gad Ya'aqobi accused the finance minister of wanting unlimited powers. The Cabinet today rejected the finance minister's proposal and it seems it will be brought up for discussion in the Ministerial Committee on Economic Affairs, but stands a poor chance of being adopted. If the proposal is rejected, the new state budget will be brought to the Knesset's approval, without any changes, at the beginning of next week.

Herzog Returns Following European Tour

TA151334 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] A few minutes ago, the Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] aircraft returning President Hayim Herzog to Israel following a visit to Europe landed at Ben-Gurion Airport. Let us go over to Ben-Gurion Airport and our correspondent Amnon Nadav:

The president landed a few minutes ago. He was flown back on the same IAI aircraft that had taken him to Europe from 'Atarot Airport in Jerusalem. No official state welcoming ceremony was held today, both because it is quite late and the Sabbath is just around the corner, and also because the stormy weather has driven everyone indoors very quickly anyway.

After briefing Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hilel — who substitutes for the president during his absence — and Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, President Hayim Herzog took a few minutes off to sum up the visit. He mentioned the change for the better that was felt in Europe vis-a-vis its position toward Israel and, asked whether achievements may be expected as a result of his visit to Belgium and Luxembourg. The president said:

[Begin recording] I would not characterize my visit as a success or anything else. There are regular state visits, and these give us an opportunity to present our position — in terms of information — to a large audience. In fact, the visit attracted the maximum attention by the media every night for almost a week. What I did do is create an atmosphere and explain our problem. I must say that if we take, for instance, the reaction of the press to the issue of our painful problem vis-a-vis the EEC in light of France [as heard] and Portugal's joining it, you could say that the meeting was certainly positive. Naturally, one must bear in mind that the EEC itself is split between the north and south. Our main problem lies with the south, not with the north, and it is very important to have the support of the northern countries as well. [end recording]

During his visit, the president also raised the issue of Soviet Jewry, and said he believes that on this matter the European countries can be expected to express support and exhibit a positive approach, as he put it.

Herzog on Peace Initiative

TA151500 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Following his return from Europe, President Hayim Herzog said that he believes the countries on that continent cannot be expected to come up with a new political initiative, because they are incapable of uniting for that purpose. He also said that his impression is that Belgium and Luxembourg — the countries which he visited — will understand Israel's stance on Spain and Portugal's joining the EEC, and said he hoped they would support Israel. Nonetheless, he believes lengthy negotiations on this are to be expected with the other EEC members. Hayim Herzog noted that he could also discern a change in attitude by the European countries toward Israel. The president said it would be safe to expect a more positive attitude toward Jews in the Soviet Union.

Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that there was no state welcoming ceremony at Ben-Gurion Airport because the Sabbath is close to beginning and due to the weather.

Reportage on Planned Peres Visits to Italy, Romania

'Arafat Letter

TA171922 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi yesterday received a letter from Yasir 'Arafat, and he will pass on its contents to Prime Minister Peres when the two meet this week in Rome. Craxi told our correspondent David Witzthum about this letter when the latter spoke with him today in Milano during a conference of the Socialist Party, Craxi's party. The Italian prime minister believes that the Husayn-'Arafat agreement is a significant development, and there is a real desire on the part of the Palestinians and Jordanians to create acceptable conditions. Craxi said that the next step must be a direct step between the sides to the conflict, and Europe can do nothing more than encourage such a step.

Peres Views Upcoming Visits

TA180617 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres leaves Israel on an official visit to Italy later today. During his 2-day stay in Rome, Peres will meet with Premier Bettino Craxi and Pope John Paul II. David Essing reports:

[Begin recording] [Essing] Shim'on Peres says he and Italian Premier Bettino Craxi are old friends and they will have a lot to discuss in Rome. Peres also notes that Craxi has just completed a tour of the Middle East.

[Peres] He feels he has some ideas to suggest. I shall listen with great interest. I shall give him my evaluation about the situation in the Middle East. We shall try to reach — if we shall be able to — a common understanding.

[Essing] Then again there is the big question of Israel's relations with the EEC. Spain and Portugal's entry into the EEC next year seriously threaten this country's agricultural exports. Israeli policymakers say the next 6 months are crucial. Jerusalem must work out an agreement with the Common Market. So Prime Minister Peres is hoping for Italy's support.

[Peres] The second topic on the agenda will be the relations between the Common Market and Israel.

[Essing] And Shim'on Peres is also looking forward to strengthening ties between Jerusalem and Rome.

[Peres] May I say that traditionally, the relations between Italy and Israel enjoyed quite long periods of extremely warm relations, and we would like to see it renewed. There is no reason why not.

[Essing] The prime minister will also be seeing Pope John Paul in Rome, and the Vatican has expressed an interest in the Peres visit. And this footnote — Cabinet Minister 'Ezer Weizman will be accompanying Peres to Rome and Bucharest. Weizman has become one of the prime minister's closest advisers, apparently on foreign affairs as well. And how does Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir feel about this? Shamir has no complaints about Weizman making the trip. [end recording]

From Rome Prime Minister Peres flies on to Bucharest for talks with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

Peres Departs for Visits

TA181203 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1147 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres left Israel a short while ago on his way to Italy and Romania. A full state ceremony was held at Ben-Gurion Airport, attended by all Cabinet ministers. Prior to his departure, Peres delivered a short speech and our correspondent 'Ido Tal brings his remarks:

[Begin Peres recording] A trip from Jerusalem to Rome always triggers a variety of historic memories, as well as political hopes for a better future, naturally. I am confident that we can contribute to the strengthening of relations between Italy and Israel. I myself am leaving Israel with a feeling that the country is safely marching toward an economic recovery, toward a policy of peace, on the basis of unity the likes of which we have not seen in a long time.

I also hope to meet with the pope, the spiritual leader of the Christian world. I am happy that he noted that the Vatican is trying to promote closer relations between Christians and Jews. There have been quite a few tragedies against the background of misunderstandings between us.

I also expect to meet with Romanian President Mr Ceausescu, whose country is maintaining overt diplomatic relations with the State of Israel, and who has also played an important role in bringing Egypt and Israel closer together, a process which culminated in the signing of the peace treaty. Mr Begin's visit to Romania at the time was considered one of the first moves in that direction.

Israel aspires to fair and good relations with all countries around the world, and I am also confident we will achieve this goal. Thank you. [end recording]

Coverage of Italy Visit

For coverage of the visit to Italy by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, including his meetings with Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and Pope John Paul II, see the Italy section of the 19 February Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Reportage on Portuguese-Speaking Countries Summit

U.S. Role Viewed Favorably

PA161947 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0448 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Sao Tome, 15 Feb (EFE) — The role of the United States in the detente process in southern Africa was "assessed positively" in the "summit" of chief of state of the five Portuguese-speaking African countries which ended here today.

The "summit," which opened yesterday following a 1-week ministerial preparatory meeting, was attended by the presidents of Angola, Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, Samora Machel of Mozambique, Joao Bernardo "Nino" Vieira of Guinea-Bissau, Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde, and Manuel Pinto da Costa of Sao Tome and Principe.

According to sources at the meeting cited by the Portuguese ANOP agency, the presidents have unanimously recognized the recent efforts conducted by Washington, above all together with the government of South Africa, to continue the peace negotiations in the region.

The action of the United States — exercised by Frank Wisner, deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs, and by Chester Crocker, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, in constant visits to Maputo — has as one of its objectives the implementation of the agreements signed last month [as heard] by South Africa, Angola, and Mozambique.

The Nkomati agreement established the bases of a new relationship of peace and cooperation between Mozambique and South Africa, the latter which committed itself to cease its support to the Mozambique antigovernment rebels, the Mozambique National Resistance Movement "Renamo."

The so-called "Lusaka commitment" created conditions for a good-neighborly relationships between Angola and South Africa, which went from a platform of independence for Namibia to the withdrawal of the South African troops that occupy Angolan territory.

The presidents of Angola and Mozambique recognized that both agreements have positive aspects, but considered that South Africa continues to be a factor of destabilization that affects their countries and all of southern Africa.

The concrete results of the "summit" include the holding of technical, scientific, cultural, and diplomatic cooperation agreements and cooperation in merchant marine activities with a view to the future formation of a joint enterprise in this field.

Portugal-Rebel Ties Condemned

AB152110 Paris AFP in French 1625 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Sao Tome, 15 Feb (AFP) — The fifth summit of heads of state of Portuguese-speaking African countries, which began in Sao Tome yesterday, today devoted its last day to the situation in southern Africa and to relations between the five nations and Portugal, official sources stated.

The five heads of state (Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola, Samora Machel of Mozambique, Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde, Joao Vieira of Guinea-Bissau, and Manuel Pinto da Costa of Sao Tome and Principe) on Friday morning successively reported on the political situation in their respective countries, the source added.

Following the reports of Mozambique and Angola, two frontline nations, the heads of state "thoroughly examined the situation in the region," according to an authorized source. On this occasion, the five heads of state denounced the prevailing situation in Namibia, for which they blamed South Africa, the source adds.

In February and March of 1984, Angola and Mozambique signed the Lusaka and Nkomati accords, which were aimed at "peacefully solving the existing conflicts in the region." But, according to Luanda and Maputo, South Africa, through the continued support that it gives to UNITA in Angola and the National Resistance Movement in Mozambique, has failed to respect the accords. According to the participants at the summit, these two guerrilla movements and their continuing relations with Portugal were given special attention during the discussions. A good source has confirmed that the "five" condemned these relations, thus seemingly going further than the recommendations made by the preparatory conference of foreign ministers, which favored the use of more discreet diplomatic channels.

Finally, according to various sources, the five delegations studied ways and means through which they could harmonize their positions within international organizations such as the United Nations and the OAU.

On Thursday, the heads of state of the five Portuguese-speaking countries examined in particular ways to develop their cooperation. According to a reliable source, several agreements were concluded, notably on maritime transport, abolition of visas for nationals of member-states traveling within the zone, cooperation in consular affairs, and on joint actions in the cultural, scientific, and technical fields.

Even though it has not been stated officially, it is generally believed in Sao Tome that these various issues will be given prominence in the final communique which will be adopted at the end of the day.

It is, however, stressed in circles close to the conference that the deliberations are taking place "in an atmosphere of mutual understanding."

Vice Chairman Appointed

MB160922 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who represented the People's Republic of Angola at the summit meeting of the five heads of state of Portuguese-speaking African countries in Sao Tome and Principe, was yesterday appointed vice chairman of the group. The summit, which was expected to close today, brought together the heads of state of Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe, and Mozambique.

Various issues were analyzed by them, mainly matters connected with multilateral cooperation among the five Portuguese-speaking African countries and the situation prevailing in southern Africa. Other issues discussed by the five heads of state were connected with the international situation.

Yesterday, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos had a meeting with Samora Machel, Mozambican head of state, with whom he discussed the current political and military situation in southern Africa.

'Final' Communique

MB181608 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1100 GMT 17 Feb 85

["Final" Communique issued in Sao Tome at the end of the summit meeting of heads of state of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe on 15 February — read by Maria Amorim, foreign affairs minister of Sao Tome and Principe]

[Text] The fifth conference of the heads of state of the People's Republic of Angola, the Republic of Cape Verde, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the People's Republic of Mozambique, and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe was held on 14 and 15 February 1985 in Sao Tome under the chairmanship of His Excellency Dr Manuel Pinto da Costa, president of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe. The heads of state were accompanied by important government delegations.

The fifth conference was held at a particularly preoccupying moment, when the international situation is characterized by aggression against some of our countries and even more accentuated threats to international peace and security. A major economic crisis is affecting developing countries, particularly these five countries, aggravated by natural disasters such as drought, floods, and desertification, as well as the criminal and destructive action of the armed bandits. As a result of this, famine, which kills and weakens many people, is worsening.

At the opening session, His Excellency Dr Manuel Pinto da Costa, president of the Democratic President of Sao Tome and Principe, made an important speech in which he paid tribute to the memory of Eduardo Mondlane, Amilcar Cabral, Agostinho Neto, and all the martyrs of the heroic liberation struggles of the fraternal peoples of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe, as well as those martyrs in Mozambique and Angola who have died in defense of their independence and sovereignty. He also stressed the arduous work accomplished during the 10 years of independence in the struggle against underdevelopment and to strengthen sovereignty and consolidate our states in the concert of free nations.

The conference approved its agenda.

After assessing the report by Julio Semedo, foreign minister of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and outgoing coordinating minister, on the activities of the ministerial commission, the heads of state made an in-depth review of the actions carried out within the framework of cooperation among the five countries. The heads of state expressed their satisfaction at the positive results achieved in relations among the five countries and the manner in which the privileged relations of multilateral cooperation have been promoted. The summit approved the report and an action program for 1985 presented by the ministerial commission and adopted the following specific objectives:

— Intensifying economic cooperation among the five countries and using more rationally potential and existing capabilities for the mutual benefit of each countries;

— Paying particular attention to increasing trade among the five countries;

— Using, jointly and rationally, transportation to promote cooperation in all sectors and completing studies aimed at creating a common financial institution;

— Directly involving national economic bodies, enterprises, and workers in a general manner in cooperation activities in order to efficiently expand their knowledge of the realities of the countries' situations; and,

— Continuing common efforts in training cadres by more rationally using the existing resources of the five countries in various sectors and promoting actions aimed at creating new common training centers.

The heads of state exchanged detailed information on the situation in each of their countries. They expressed satisfaction at the already consolidated ties of friendship and solidarity as an encouraging and mobilizing factor in the pursuance of the common struggle to strengthen the already attained gains and the economic, social, and cultural development of their respective countries.

As a result of the grave problems resulting from natural disasters, the heads of state called on the international community to urgently increase their assistance to the five countries with a view to solving their difficultires on both long- and short-term bases.

The five heads of state were particularly interested in analyzing political and diplomatic cooperation among the five countries. In this context, they hailed the regular consultation existing among the five in the international arena and called for strengthening and systemitizing this consultation as a means of giving more impact to the common positions on the main problems of the current situation. They discussed the importance of using Portuguese as a working language in international organizations and recalled the five countries called for its acceptance as a working language at the OAU. The conference deplored the fact that some OAU member-states have not yet sent their opinion to the organization's secretariat general and called on those who have not to do so.

Analyzing the international situation, the heads of state expressed their profound disquiet over the aggravation of conflicts, tensions, and the arms race, which pose a threat to international peace and security. They stressed that the main causes of international tensions are essentially caused by the forces of imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, racism, Zionism, and apartheid, and some forms of domination which use pressure, threats, or even violence to try to prevent the economic and political emancipation of nations and to preserve relations based on inequality and injustice within the international community.

The heads of state, who have always worked for peace and the elimination of hotbeds of tension through negotiations and recourse to arbitration by international bodies, hailed all efforts and initiatives that have been accomplished and regarded them as positive steps on the path to establishing peace and progress and transforming international relations. The summit paid priority attention to the situation in southern Africa, which because of its great importance, was the subject of a special declaration known as the Sao Tome Declaration.

The summit hailed the convening of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference summit in Luanda in July of this year.

The situation prevailing in central Africa, particularly in Chad, drew the attention of the heads of state. Thus, they expressed their concern over the war situation still prevailing there. They called on the Chadian factions to seriously and constructively engage themselves in the process of dialogue and negotiations, without foreign interference, as the only means to finding a just and lasting settlement to the conflict that is destroying the country and preventing any effort at development. The heads of state praised the efforts of the People's Republic of Congo of contributing to the settlement of the question by convening in Brazzaville a conference on national reconciliation in Chad.

Having examined the Western Sahara question, the heads of state expressed satisfaction at the confirmation of the SDAR as a full member of the OAU. They regarded this fact as a shining political victory for the Saharan people and an even greater victory for the OAU, which remains loyal to its principles. The heads of state reiterated their conviction that direct negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario Front, in accordance with Resolution No 104 adopted by the 19th OAU summit and applicable UN resolutions on the Western Sahara issue, are capable of creating conditions for a just and lasting settlement to the confilict. They also expressed their profound concern over the risk of extending this conflict to the neighboring countries.

The heads of state hailed the success of the 20th OAU summit, which they regarded as a success for Africa and which was an important event in the life of African peoples and the safeguarding of the organization's unity. The heads of state stressed the importance that the summit assumed when it discussed and made concrete decisions on the main issues preoccupying the continent, particularly the economic crisis which is affecting a number of African countries and is a consequence of the international economic crisis, which is strongly aggravated by natural disasters. In this context, the heads of state hailed the decisions of the 20th OAU summit meeting, particularly the creation of a special fund for Africa. The heads of state expressed their desire to see the fund benefit as quickly as possible from contributions of donors so as to efficiently serve the objectives for which it has been created, to the benefit of African countries.

Regarding the convening this year of a summit meeting to examine economic issues in order to take immediate measures to confront the aggravation of the economic and social situation in Africa, they expressed their firm wish to actively participate in its proceedings.

Analyzing the situation prevailing in East Timor, the heads of state reiterated their unflinching and unconditional support for the Mauber people's struggle against the annexation of their fatherland and vehemently condemned the genocidal war that the Indonesian regime has been waging against these people. They hailed the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor [Fretilin] for the courageous manner in which it has been leading the Mauber people's struggle for their total liberation. They reaffirmed support for Fretilin's peace plan and the national unity policy which it envisages. They called on the Portuguese state, as the administering power, to fully assume its historic, moral, and legal responsibilities by initiating talks with Fretilin. They hailed the UN secretary general's efforts to find a negotiated settlement to the East Timor issue. The heads of state decided to support the international conference of solidarity with the East Timor people.

Analyzing the situation in the Middle East, the heads of state regarded with concern the gravity of the current situation in that region and condemned Israel's occupation of and action in the occupied Arab territories. The heads of state reaffirmed their support for the struggle of the Palestinian people for their national rights under the leadership of the PLO.

In the case of the conflict between Iran and Iraq, the conference renewed its vehement appeal to the warring parties to find a negotiated settlement which may end this fratricidal and devastating war.

On the situation in Central America, the conference expressed its concern over the prevailing climate of tension resulting from imperialist acts of aggression and hailed the Contadora peace plan.

The heads of state expressed profound concern over flagrant inequalities and imbalance of the international economic order. They noted that it is becoming increasingly clear that the current system of international relations is harming the progress of developing countries. In this context, the heads of state reaffirmed that the establishment of a new international economic order is imperative for the creation of balanced international economic relations based on justice for the benefit of cooperation and dignity of all peoples. The heads of state hailed the recent creation of the Central African Economic Community, CAEC, as a forum for promoting economic integration and inter-African cooperation.

The conference declared that the present relentless arms race, which is going to the extremes of involving outer space, is increasing the nuclear danger, which is threatening peace and is incompatible with efforts aimed at establishing a new international economic order, and expressed its conviction that universal peace and security can only be granted through general and complete disarmament. They once again reiterated their profound conviction that the vast sums used in the arms race could contribute to eliminating underdevelopment, which is threatening and plaguing most of mankind. In this context, the conference hailed the resumption of negotiations on disarmament betweeen the United States and the Soviet Union and called on them to pursue their efforts with a view to concluding agreements on arms reduction and limitation.

The conference stressed the importance of the UN system and its contribution to maintaining universal peace during its 40 years of existence. It reiterated its firm determination to contribute to strengthening its effectiveness and promoting its prestige. It deplored the intention or the decision of some countries to withdraw from the organization, thereby harming its universality.

The conference stressed the importance of the nonaligned policy in creating a new and just system for international political and economic relations. The participents regarded the participation of nonaligned countries as an essential element for settling through peaceful means most international problems. They hailed and supported the convening in Angola of the next conference of the nonaligned foreign ministers.

The fifth conference expressed its satisfaction with the manner in which Guinea-Bissau conducted the negotiations which led to the peaceful settlement of its border dispute with the Republic of Guinea within the framework of good neighborliness and in accordance with the principles expressed by the OAU Charter.

During the conference, the heads of state recalled with profound emotion Mrs Indira Gandhi, chairman of the nonaligned countries. They deplored her tragic murder which deprived the world, particularly the nonaligned countries, of an illustrious leader devoted to the cause of peace and mankind's progress. They also expressed their total trust in and support for the current Nonaligned Movement's chairman.

The heads of state expressed satisfaction at the conclusion and signing, during the proceedings of the fifth conference, of the following accords: 1) accord on consular cooperation; 2) accord on diplomatic visas and passports; 3) accord on trade and shipping; and 4) accord on cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation. These accords implement in a practical manner the always existing political desire of the five countries to derive mutual benefit from their potential and capacities.

At the end of its proceedings, the conference hailed the Republic of Guinea-Bissau in the person of its president, His Excellency Major General Joao Bernardo Vieira, for its valuable contribution to strengthening the relations of cooperation among the five countries with the implementation of the fourth conference resolutions.

The heads of state expressed their profound satisfaction at the success of the fifth conference and the new prospects for a positive action and general progress that are opening up for an active solidarity and strengthening cooperation among the Angolan, Cape Verdian, Guinean, Mozambican, and Sao Tomean peoples in the common struggle for justice, freedom, peace, and social progress. They once again expressed joy over the spirit of traditional solidarity and warm fraternity which pervaded the conference as well as the great frankness, openness, and maturity which characterized the debates which constituted a valuable heritage of the five.

The heads of state decided that the sixth conference will be held in the People's Republic of Angola during 1985. The heads of state of the People's Republic of Angola, the Republic of Cape Verde, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, and the People's Republic of Mozambique expressed their profound gratitude to the people, the Sao Tome and Principe Liberation Movement, and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe in the person of Dr Manuel Pinto da Costa, its president, for the fraternal and generous hospitality which was extended to them and which greatly contributed to the success of this fifth conference.

Done in Sao Tome on 15 February 1985.

Sao Tome Declaration

MB190645 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1800 GMT 18 Feb 85

[The Sao Tome Declaration adopted by the conference of the five heads of state of African Portuguese-speaking countries issued at the end of the meeting on 15 February — read by Maria Amorim, Sao Tome and Principe foreign affairs minister]

[Text] The fifth summit meeting of the heads of state of the People's Republic of Angola, the Republic of Cape Verde, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the People's Republic of Mozambique, and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe was held in the capital of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe from 14 to 15 February.

The summit noted that the crucial problem of the five nations is the absolute need to guarantee their peace, stability, unity, and territorial integrity, which is a fundamental condition for national reconstruction, development, and the social and economic prosperity of their countries as well as cooperation among them.

In order to frustrate this, imperialism turned the people's Republic of Angola and the People's Republic of Mozambique into its main targets and the staging point for its destabilizing and destructive projects against the popular gains of our states in order to return our countries to its sphere of domination after the failure of its efforts to prevent the victory of the authentic liberation movements of our countries. Thus, the imperialist action against Angola and Mozambique has successively been including the following objectives: to prevent the winning of power by the MPLA and Frelimo; to destroy people's power established in Angola and Mozambique as a result of the liberation struggles; to force the Governments of the People's Republic of Angola and the People's Republic of Mozambique to share power with criminal elements and agents of fascism and colonialism, so as to destroy the people's gains; and, lastly, to divide the territories of the People's Republic of Angola and the People's Republic of Mozambique. The policy of our five nations has been and will always be to intransigently defend national independence, integrity, territorial unity, and the people's interests.

The policy of our five nations is to promote peace, peaceful coexistence, good-neighborliness, and a mutually advantageous relationship with all nations of the international community. Our five nations are and will remain loyal to the principles and charter of the OAU, the principles and Charter of the United Nations, and the ideals of the Nonaligned Movement. In this context, the People's Republic of Angola and the People's Republic of Mozambique, implementing the permanent wish to promote peace, agreed upon and signed the Lusaka Agreement and the Nkomati Accord respectively about 1 year ago.

The fifth summit hails these fraternal countries for the rigorous implementation of their tasks, thus demonstrating their high sense of responsibility. The fifth summit feels that the efforts made by the People's Republic of Angola and the People's Republic of Mozambique are aimed at ensuring peace and stability for the two nations. These efforts have had a dynamic and positive effect on the establishment of a climate of peaceful coexistence, good-neighborliness, and peace and stability in southern Africa and throughout the continent. They are part of mankind's general struggle to prevent regional or international conflicts and to guarantee a just and lasting peace.

The summit notes that these efforts are not being reciprocated by the Republic of South Africa. Thus, the occupation of southern Angola is continuing in violation of the Lusaka Agreement. From South African territory, acts of violence and terrorism continue to be launched against the People's Republic of Mozambique in violation of the Nkomati Accord. The summit calls on the Republic of South Africa to rigorously implement the Lusaka Agreement and the Nkomati Accord.

The fifth summit vehemently denounces the complicity and connivance of certain Portuguese political, economic, financial, and military circles in the aggression against the People's Republic of Angola and the People's Republic of Mozambique, to the detriment of the existing relations of friendship and cooperation. It denounces the fact that, contrary to the reaffirmed wish of friendship and cooperation between the Portuguese Republic and each of our five nations, Portuguese nationals and others, operating from Portuguese territory, are directing, financing, and supporting terrorist actions against the People's Republic of Angola and the People's Republic of Mozambique. Portuguese nationals and interests are among the victims of these actions in those nations. The continuation of such acts threatens the friendly and cooperative relations between sovereign nations and profoundly contradicts the spirits of these relations.

The summit denounces the complicity and support that the forces of armed banditry and terrorism against the People's Republic of Angola and the People's Republic of Mozambique receive from certain circles in a number of Western and Middle East countries.

The summit declares its unreserved support for all the initiatives and measures which have been made or are in the process of being made by the People's Republic of Angola and the People's Republic of Mozambique for the defense of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, national unity, and peoples gains. Within its possibilities, and taking into account the historical tradition of common struggle and sacrifice, the summit reaffirms its readiness to support in various ways the People's Republic of Angola and the People's Republic of Mozambique.

The summit appeals to all African nations to provide the People's Republic of Angola and the People's Republic of Mozambique with concrete support that the two countries may solicit from them in terms of means and forces to put an end to the acts of aggression to which they are victims. The summit extends this same support to all countries of the international community.

The summit hails the action of the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Zambia, the Republic of Zimbabwe, and the Republic of Botswana, all Frontline States, which are consistently supporting the attacked fraternal countries and defending the principles of the OAU and UN Charters and the ideals of the Nonaligned Movement in the struggle for peace and against colonialism in Namibia and apartheid in South Africa.

The summit once again expressed its support for the just struggle of the Namibian people, led by its vanguard, SWAPO. Accordingly, the fifth summit reaffirms its support for UN Security Council Resolution No 435/78 on Namibian independence and demands its application. The summit identifies itself with the efforts being developed by the People's Republic of Angola to promote a just solution to this issue, namely through the platform of general negotiations by the Government of the People's Republic of Angola on peace in southern Africa, particularly Angola and Namibia, and the respective complementary text. In this context, the fifth summit considers the so-called counterproposal by the Republic of South Africa as provocative, dilatory, and an offensive maneuver against Angolan sovereignty.

The summit reaffirms its condemnation of apartheid, a crime against humanity, and believes its continuation to be the raison d'etre for the violence not only inside South Africa but also throughout region.

The fifth summit once again declares its solidarity with the South African people of all races led by the ANC in the struggle against apartheid and for democracy. In particular, the summit hails the declaration issued to the South African people on 11 February by the historic ANC leader, Nelson Mandela.

As in the past, the fifth summit affirms its decision to hold very high the banner of solidarity in the struggle and the communion of the sacrifices of our peoples.

The struggle continues. Victory is certain.

Sao Tome, 15 February 1985. [applause]

ALGERIA

Reportage on Visit of SFRY's Foreign Secretary

Arrives in Algiers

LD162306 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The head of Yugoslav diplomacy arrived in Algiers this afternoon for a 3-day visit. Mr Raif Dizdarevic was received by his Algerian counterpart, Mr Taleb Ibrahimi.

We shall, he said on his arrival, be discussing topics of interest to the two countries and their joint interests. Peace in the world is under threat, said Mr Dizdarevic, and that is why it is our duty to work towards our protection. In this connection he emphasized the major role which Algeria plays in the Nonaligned Movement.

Joint Talks Begin

LD162308 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The Algerian-Yugoslav talks started this afternoon at Villa Dar 'Ali Cherif and were chaired on the Algerian side by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Politburo and minister of foreign affairs, and on the Yugoslav side by Mr Raif Dizdarevic, federal secretary for foreign affairs. During these talks the two sides reviewed major international issues and political issues of mutual interest.

International Issues Discussed

LD172227 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] The Algerian and Yugoslav delegations, headed respectively by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, and Mr Raif Dizdarevic, federal secretary for foreign affairs, resumed their talks this afternoon in Dar 'Ali Cherif [in Algiers].

The two sides held an in-depth discussion on the Nonaligned Movement in the current international context marked by the emergence of fresh developments on the international and regional level as hotbeds of tension and conflict remain a major preoccupation for the nonaligned countries.

In this respect, the two sides exchanged views on devedoping ways to mobilize and expand the role of the movement in international relations, taking into account the need to diminish international tension, invigorate the world economy, and guarantee the development of Third World countries, especially in Africa where they are facing drought and famine.

The two sides also reviewed the development of the situation in the Arab Maghreb, the Middle East, South Africa, and Latin America.

Received by Bendjedid

LD172237 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid this morning received the Yugoslav Federal secretary for foreign affairs, Mr Raif Dizdarevic, who is paying an official visit to Algeria, at the Presidential Office. Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister for foreign affairs, and the ambassadors of the two countries attended this audience.

Makes Departure Statement

LD182148 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] The Yugoslav Federal secretary of foreign affairs, who was also received by the head of state, left Algiers this afternoon, following a 3-day official visit to our country. Before departure Mr Dizdarevic said he was leaving Algeria with a very positive impression and that his talks with Algerian leaders had been exceptional.

He added that an identity of views on the need to develop cooperation between the two countries had emerged from the talks. There was also an identity of views, Mr Dizdarevic said, with regard to actions to be undertaken for the Nonaligned Movement to be more committed in economic and political developments.

Mediation Between Jordan, Syria Proposed

PM180813 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Feb 85 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Toward an Algerian Mediation Between Jordan and Syria"]

[Text] London — Informed diplomatic sources have reported that Jordanian King Husayn's talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid centered on "joint Arab moves on the international level to promote peace in the Middle East." They told *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* that the Jordanian monarch discussed the possibility of mediation by the Algerian president between Jordan and Syria with a view to arriving at a common understanding regarding the details of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement announced in Amman the day before yesterday — the contents of which are shrouded in secrecy at the behest of the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships — as well as improving relations between Damascus and Amman. Algeria enjoys good relatons with Syria as well as the Palestinian Democratic Alliance and the Palestinian National Alliance. The sources emphasized that King Husayn's visit to Algeria is within the context of a tour he will make of Arab and European countries to acquaint their leaders with the details of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement.

The Jordanian Cabinet held a meeting yesterday evening under the chairmanship of Acting Prime Minister Sulayman 'Arar to discuss the situation following the announcement of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement.

LIBYA

Jamahiriyah Ready To Replace U.S. Aid to Sudan

LD181802 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Feb (JANA) — A source at the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, commenting on the American Government's curtailment of its economic aid to Sudan, said that the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah is deeply indignant at American methods which are interfering in the religious beliefs of the Sudanese Muslim people by imposing humiliating conditions that go beyond domination, hegemony and occupation to the point of attempting to encroach on the religious beliefs of the Sudanese.

The source affirmed that Libya, proceeding from its pan-Arab vision and in the belief that any encroachment on the dignity and freedom of the Arab people in any of its homelands impugns the dignity and freedom of the Arab people as a whole, manifests its readiness to extend aid to Sudan equal to what was given by the United States.

Libya will bear this alone or in the framework of collective, action, whatever the cost of the material sacrifices.

SFRY Internal Affairs Secretary Arrives for Visit

LD171548 Tripoli JANA in English 1404 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Awal 27, February 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Mr Dobroslav Culafic, the Federal secretary for the Yugoslavian internal affairs, and the accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli last night on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Mr Dobroslav Culafic, in a statement to JANA's representative, expressed his happiness and that of the accompanying delegation, concerning their visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

He affirmed the importance of consolidating further the bilateral relations between the two friendly states. He added that Jamahiriyah and Yugoslavia are two non-aligned states working towards the reinforcement of peace, prosperity, supporting the causes of freedom aspiring nations, and independence.

Reportage on Visit of Ghanaian Envoy, Minister

Arrive in Tripoli

LD170942 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Kojo Tsikata, special adviser to the Ghanaian Provisional National Defense Council and special envoy of Ghanaian President Jerry Rawlings arrived in Tripoli last night.

He is accompanied by Dr Obed Asamoah, secretary of foreign affairs and Ghanaian chairman of the joint Ghanaian-Arab Libyan Committee.

Bilateral Ties Discussed

LD171550 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The secretary of the People's Committee of the Popular Bureau for Foreign Liaison had a meeting this morning with Ghana's Kojo Tsikata, private adviser to the Permanent Council for National Defense, and Obed Asamoah, secretary of foreign affairs. They discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations and develop cooperation relations in all spheres in the common interests of the two friendly peoples. Furthermore, the two sides reviewed the situation on the African Continent and the importance of bilateral action to confront imperialist intrigues against its security and safety, to challenge the racist regime in the south of the continent, and to back the African liberation movements, as well as a number of other international issues of joint interest.

The meetings of the Joint Arab-Libyan-Ghana Committee for Economic and Social Cooperation opened this morning at the headquarters of the People's Committee of the Popular Bureau for Foreign Liaison to draw up an integrated program to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the economic, political, social, and information spheres and to set up many joint companies.

Joint Committee Session Held

LD171922 Tripoli JANA in English 1748 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Awal 27, February 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Libyan Arab-Ghanaian Joint Committee for Economic and Social Cooperation began its meeting this morning at the Foreign Liaison Bureau, in a bid to form a comprehensive program for bilateral cooperation in the economic, political, social and information fields, and to establish several joint ventures.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for the Foreign Liaison Bureau and a number of specialists from various secretariats attended the meeting.

On the Ghanaian side Mr Kojo Tsikata, the special adviser to the Permanent National Defence Council, and Dr Obed Asamoah, secretary for foreign affairs, and a number of Ghanian Secretariat representatives attended the meeting.

The secretary general of the General People's Committee for the Foreign Liaison Bureau, in a statement he gave at the beginning of the meeting, affirmed the importance of developing and consolidating the relations of cooperation between the two revolutions to face the enemies of the African Continent. He said: We are happy for the development of these relations for the mutual benefit of our countries.

He further affirmed that the development of relations with Ghana stems from the resolutions of the Basic People's Congresses who hold the power and decision in Libya.

Mr Kojo Tsikata, at the beginning of his statement, conveyed the greeting of Flt Captain Jerry Rawlings to the leader of the revolution and his wishes to the Libyan Arab People's advancement and progress. He also expressed his country's desire to establish solid relations with the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

He said: We in Ghana highly appreciate the important role of the Libyan Arab people and the leader of the revolution in consolidating the African causes and the liberation movements which fight against the racist regime in the south of the continent.

In conclusion, he expressed Ghana's appreciation and thanks for the support of the Libyan Arab people to the revolution, and standing alongside it against all forms of imperialist conspiracies.

Three committees were formed during this session which will prepare the resolutions, recommendations and joint ventures to be passed during these meetings and which will be reviewed by the committee to frame motions on them.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD191001 Tripoli JANA in English 0849 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Awal 29, February 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The brother leader of the revolution received yesterday Mr Kojo Tsikata the adviser of the Provisional National Defense Council and the personal envoy of the President of Ghana Jerry Rawlings and Dr Obed Asamoah the secretary for foreign affairs in Ghana.

Statement Warns Against Arab Contact With Israel

LD171809 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Feb (JANA) — The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has issued a statement concerning the contacts and the supsicious agreements currently going on on the Arab scene. The statement contained the following:

In view of the contacts and the suspicious agreements which are going on on the Arab scene and aimed at betraying the pan-Arab cause and recognizing the Zionist enemy, the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison reiterates the principled and firm positions of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah towards the Palestinian issue, the central issue concerning the present and the future of the Arab nation. At the same time it warns the Arab masses and dynamic forces of the dangers which are aimed mainly at the Arab existence and announced:

The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah continues to support the total liberation of Palestinian territories from the river to the sea. There is to be no peace, conciliation, or dialogue with the Zionist enemy, which is occupying Palestine and arming itself with the nuclear arms of annihilation.

The struggle with the Zionist entity is a struggle for existence and not a struggle for borders. The PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The United Nations is the suitable place to discuss the Palestinian issue.

MOROCCO

King Appoints New Minister of Foreign Affairs

LD181054 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Marrakech, 18 Feb (MAP) — His Majesty King Hassan II last night appointed Mr Abdellatif Filali, the current minister of information, the new Moroccan minister of foreign affairs. Mr Abdellatif Filali replaces Mr Abdelouahed Belkaziz, who will be entrusted with other duties, as the chief of Moroccan diplomacy

French Foreign Minister Arrives in Marrakech

LD151404 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Roland Dumas, the French minister for external relations, arrived in Marrakech this afternoon on a 24-hour visit to Morocco. He was welcomed at the airport by his Moroccan counterpart, Abdelouahid Belkeziz.

Received by King

LD151611 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 feb 85

[Text] At noon today, His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, received at the royal palace in Marrakech Ronald Dumas, French minister of external relations, who has been in our country on an official visit since this morning. The talks were private and lasted 1 and 1/2 hours.

The French minister arrived at Al-Manarah Marrakech Airport late in the morning and he was welcomed by Dr Abdelouahid Belkeziz, foreign affairs minister; Dr Yusef Ben Abbes, Moroccan ambassador to France; the French ambassador to Morocco; the governor of Marrakech and his deputy; and heads of municipal and regional councils.

The French minister in an arrival statement said that he was visiting Morocco with the same enthusiasm as when he was minister of European affairs. He said that he will have talks with members of his majesty's government in the light of the solid relations between the two countries. Ronald Dumas said there were no difficulties in the two countries' relations; on the contrary, they were developing at the economic level. He also said that his talks in Morocco will cover all the bilateral and international issues. He ended his statement saying that Morocco is a big country which shoulders international responsibility and has special relations with France.

Senegalese President Welcomed by King Hassan

LD162147 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, arrived this evening in our country on a working visit. He was welcomed at the Marrakech airport by His Majesty King Hassan II. He was accompanied by his wife who was welcomed by Her Highness

Princess Lalla (Mariam). The Sengalese president is also accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs Ibrahima Fall.

SUDAN

Khartoum University Closed Indefinitely

JN171812 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1754 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Feb (SUNA) — The president of Khartoum University issued a decision today closing all the university's colleges as of today for an indefinite period.

In the past 2 days the university witnessed personal quarrels between two groups of students. These quarrels developed into fistfights and clashes with clubs and iron rods, resulting in injuries to the students. The police who were closely watching the situation interfered to end the clashes and evict the disputing groups from the university and from surrounding areas.

Numayri Orders Shops To Close at 1700 Daily

JN151449 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Feb (SUNA) — In the speech that he delivered to the nation from Shaykh Daf‘allah al-‘Arki Mosque in New Omdurman yesterday, President Ja‘far Muhammad Numayri called on the governors of the regions to close shopping centers in all towns at 1700 daily so that shopping would be restricted to daylight hours. This measure will help to save the energy of the people who waste time travelling and wandering aimlessly. The president said this measure will also help to save the fuel consumed by vehicles that keep roving until midnight.

His excellency asserted that this decision will not include cafes, places of entertainment and worship, and restaurants but will be applied to shopping centers, such as groceries and textile shops.

Urges Dialogue With Outlaws

JN151345 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1017 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Feb (SUNA) — President Ja‘far Muhammad Numayri has reiterated his call for the outlaws to resort to reason and return to their people. In a speech he delivered at the religious ceremony at the Shaykh Daf‘allah al-‘Arki Mosque in New Omdurman, the president asserted that dialogue is the only way to solve differences among brothers and that the door was opened by the 1969 revolution.

President Numayri Receives Reply From Mubarak

JN171455 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Feb (SUNA) — President Numayri has received a thank you cable from President Mubarak in reply to a cable he had sent following his short visit to the northern Nile valley. In his cable President Mubarak stressed that the Nile valley people's struggle has been a glorious battle of steadfastness since the dawn of history aimed at saving the two peoples from the horrors of international colonialism and repression. He also explained that the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples are determined to achieve full integration as an example to be followed in Arab-international relations.

Mubarak also stressed that the Aswan meeting is an honest expression of joint efforts to achieve that noble goal in the service of the Nile valley people, who have proved their ability to confront all the conspiracies and challenges in order to create a more prosperous society.

President Receives UAE's Oil Minister 17 Feb

JN171729 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Feb (SUNA) — President Ja‘far Muhammad Numayri received UAE Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Mani‘ Sa‘id al-‘Utaybah here today. Al-‘Utaybah conveyed an verbal message from UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan dealing with bilateral relations. They also discussed bilateral cooperation in energy and mining affairs. The meeting was attended by Sudanese Minister of Energy and Mining Dr Sharif al-Tuhami.

Dr Mani‘ Sa‘id al-‘Utaybah is leading his country's delegation to the fifth conference of the Arab organization for mineral wealth which is being held in Khartoum.

Property of Equatoria Province Rebels To Be Seized

EA151601 Juba Sudan Domestic Service in English 1415 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The executive director of eastern Equatoria Province, Mr Anthony (Ariki), last Saturday held a meeting with all heads of department in Torit town. The meeting reviewed the governor's Order No 1 regarding the confiscation of property of those citizens who have joined the rebels. During the meeting, the heads of department enumerated the names of those who have joined the rebels to the regional governor. In conclusion, Mr (Ariki) asked all heads of department in his province to enlighten all employees of their units not to join the rebels as there was no cause for fighting.

The meeting also reviewed the health situation in the province as a whole and in Torit town in particular. The meeting resolved that enlightenment on good sanitation be conducted throughout the province. The meeting was also attended by the commanding officer, 11th Brigade of the People's Armed Forces in Torit, Brig (Saturnino Arigata).

SPLA Radio Notes Cut in U.S. Aid to Numayri

EA181546 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] The United States has suspended nearly $200 million dollars of financial aid to the Sudan, according to news reports monitored here last night. The news reports say the decision had been taken because of concern by the American Administration for what it sees as Sudan's self-inflicted economic and political crises and internal opposition to President Numayri.

Asked to comment on the American Administration's decision to suspend financial aid to Sudan, the spokesman for the SPLA-SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Army-Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] declined to comment. However, he said: The decision is being studied by the SPLA-SPLM and an appropriate answer would be made when the necessary facts had been obtained.

SPLA Forces Conduct Ambush, Garrison Raid

EA151609 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] Forces in Lakes Province commanded by Lieutenant Colonel (P.F.C.) Martin Makur also conducted yet another successful ambush on the enemy between Akot and Aluaklua on 10 February 1985. The enemy suffered heavy casualties, including the deaths of Corporal Muhammad Hamad Manna, Corporal Muhammad 'Abd al-Rahman Mustafa, and Private Muhammad Adam Yusuf of the 240th (WUA) Battalion. Ten other enemy soldiers were wounded in the clash, while three SPLA fighters sustained slight wounds. The ambush was masterminded by Captain Kuot Deng Kuot and Second Lieutenant (Maryal Chenyong) and Lieutenant (Maluk Mau Bech).

SPLA forces conducted a successful raid on Akobo Garrison yesterday, killing five enemy soldiers and inflicting damage on enemy installations. The raid was led by Lieutenant Abrahama (Machag).

TUNISIA

Jordan's Prime Minister on Agreement With PLO

LD151512 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Tunis, 15 feb (TAP) — Mr Ahmad 'Ubaydat, the Jordanian prime minister, left Tunis yesterday afternoon after a short stopover on his return from Algiers to Amman. The Jordanian prime minister, gave a statement to the press in the VIP lounge in Tunis-Carthage International Airport.

In reply to a question about the recent Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, the Jordanian prime minister pointed out that it is still premature to talk about it. He underlined that in principle it is an agreement between Jordan and the PLO to march jointly toward achieving a just and peaceful settlement to the Palestinian issue; a settlement which preserves the proven rights of the Palestinian people and is based on the liberation of the land, with Jerusalem at the forefront.

He added that this agreement is also based on the proven right of the Palestinian people to self-determination in their land within balanced and distinguished relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples, within the framework of a suggested Arab confederation to be established when circumstances allow.

Mr Ahmad 'Ubaydat explained that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement specifies holding an international conference to be attended by all sides concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict, the five permenent members of the UN Security Council, and the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, equally within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

ETHIOPIA

Foreign Ministry Condemns Somali Party Declaration

EA181926 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today stated that the declaration made by the so-called Socialist Party of Somalia at the end of its congress last week was further clear proof of the Mogadishu regime's acts of interference in Ethiopia's internal affairs and of its increasing the existing tension in the Horn of Africa.

The Foreign Ministry said this in a statement it issued following reports from Mogadishu that at its conclusion, the party congress issued a statement supporting anti-unity and reactionary groups in Ethiopia.

The ministry stated that since the said report originated from the party's congress, it is clear that the Mogadishu regime has adopted a prominent position in its long-standing policy of provocation and aggression.

When the issue is seen in this light, Somalia's claim to have agreed to seek peaceful solutions to issues of regional disagreement shows not only that the Mogadishu regime is out to distort world opinion but also that it is making a feeble attempt to obfuscate its expansionist ambitions toward neighboring countries.

The Foreign Ministry stated that the Somali regime's claims that Ethiopia is occupying Somali territory is its usual deceitful propaganda put out to stain Ethiopia's name.

The statement also stressed that no villages or towns within Somalia's administrative boundaries are under the control of Ethiopian soldiers. It said that inasmuch as Ethiopia is a country which respects the national dignity and territorial integrity of neighboring countries, including Somalia, such a claim is not only baseless but is also malicious.

The statement also pointed out that the government of revolutionary Ethiopia is well aware that opposition forces are waging a serious struggle in opposition to the Siad Barre regime, which is being backed by imperialists and South Africa.

The Foreign Ministry explained that if, as it is alleged, villages and towns located in Somalia are occupied by other forces, then that is perhaps because the struggle being waged by patriotic fronts struggling for independence in Somalia against the clan-based Siad Barre regime.

Cooperation Talks Open With PDRY 18 Feb

EA182247 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] The fifth Ethiopia-PDRY economic, scientific, technical, and trade joint commission meeting opened today at the External Trade Ministry conference hall. In addition to assessing the implementation of the bilateral agreements concluded in 1984 and setting up five subcommittees to report on working plans for 1985, the meeting also engaged in detailed talks on development programs in the two countries.

Comrade Wollie Chekol, member of the Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee and minister of foreign trade, led the Ethiopian delegation, while the PDRY delegation was led by Comrade Ahmad 'Ubayd al-Fadli, minister of trade and supply.

Comrade Wollie Chekol said in a speech during the meeting that in 1984 great strides have been taken in the field of bilateral trade, stressing that the development and strengthening of the transportation and communications sector had a decisive role to play in the maintenance of healthy trade relations between the two countries. Comrade Wollie said that in order to strengthen bilateral trade relations, the Chambers of Commerce of the two countries should cooperate more closely on trade fairs and make greater efforts to overcome obstacles to trade which might arise.

He also gave a report on efforts being made by the commission since its formation to expand trade between the two countries.

Comrade Wollie reminded the participants that they were expected to establish an approrpriate system for the initiation of planned joint development projects. He stressed that the committees established were expected to submit reports recommending the best ways of developing cooperation in agriculture, transportation and communications, tourism and hotels, trade, and higher education, in order to strengthen relations between the two countries.

Replying, Comrade Ahmad 'Ubayd al-Fadli expressed his conviction that the efforts initiated to link Assab and Aden ports by microwave will soon be transformed into action, thus further strengthening trade cooperation between the two countries. He added that a number of problems that used to obstruct bilateral trade relations are being resolved.

KENYA

Rail Service to Tanzania Resumes 14 Feb

EA160539 Nairobi KNA in English 1535 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Taveta, February 14 — Interstate railway services between Kenya and Tanzania resumed today when the first goods train crossed the common border at Taveta, 8 years after the breakup of the East African Community. The resumption follows recent agreements between the ministers for communications in both countries that both steamer and railway services be reestablished.

SOMALIA

Halgan Rejects Reports on 'Foreign Troops' in Country

EA152002 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] A reply by Colonel Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmad, chairman of the DFSS [Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia] Executive Committee, to a recent report by the BBC and Radio Mogadishu, has made it clear that the Districts of Galdogob and Balamballe were liberated by DFSS fighters from the Siad regime in July 1982 and are still controlled by the DFSS. This is indisputable. The Districts of Galdogob and Balamballe, Col Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmad said, are indisputably an integral part of Somalia.

Replying to the BBC and Radio Mogadishu, he made it known that the policy of the DFSS totally opposes the presence of foreign troops in Somalia, and that the DFSS would never tolerate such a situation. Elaborating on the subject, the chairman of the DFSS Executive Committee said: This is cheap propaganda aimed at countering the successive victories of the DFSS in liberating its people. It is also aimed at confusing Somali and international public opinion and to comfort the limping Barre regime, which is being confronted by the Somali masses.

In his reply, the DFSS leader, Col Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmad, called on the Somali people to intensify their struggle until final victory is achieved.

TANZANIA

Mozambican Foreign Minister Meets With Nyerere

EA152101 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1900 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Dar es Salaam — The Mozambican foreign minister, Ndugu Joaquim Chissano, today held talks with the chairman of the OAU, President Nyerere. No details were issued after the talks, but it is believed that Ndugu Chissano briefed Mwalimu on the situation obtaining in Mozambique following recent floods and an accelerated wave of sabotage operations by bandits of the self-styled MNR.

Ndugu Chissano called on Mwalimu soon after two hours [as heard], when the OAU chairman held talks with ambassadors of the Nordic countries, the Soviet Union, and representatives of UN agencies based in Dar es Salaam appealing for more emergency food aid to Angola, Burkina Faso, and Mozambique.

Nyerere on Failure To Honor Nkomati Accord

EA162140 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Dar es Salaam — The chairman of OAU, Mwalimu Nyerere, said today that Mozambique was dissatisfied with the southern African regime on the implementation of the Nkomati Accord. He said the racist regime has failed to honor the accord signed last year.

The OAU chairman was speaking to ambassadors from the socialist countries when he was appealing to them for food aid for Burkina Faso, Angola, and Mozambique. The socialist envoys wanted to know from the chairman the latest situation in southern Africa. He told them that the Mozambican foreign minister, Ndugu Joaquim Chissano, was in Dar es Salaam yesterday to brief him on the latest situation in southern Africa with special emphasis on the situation inside Mozambique.

President Nyerere, who is also the chairman of the Frontline States, said that it has been proved that the South African racist regime is still giving assistance to the armed bandits inside Mozambique and thus causing much trouble to the people in the countryside.

On Namibia, the OAU chairman said that it appeared the United States Government has laid down another condition which requests Angola and South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO, to declare a cease-fire before the implementation of the UN Resolution 435, the condition which has been rejected by SWAPO and Angola.

Mwalimu Nyerere also told the ambassadors that there are fears that the South African racist regime has increased the number of its troops in southern Angola.

Briefs

Finnish Aid — Finland granted Tanzania 1,171.2 million shillings for import support and other economic activities for the next 3 years. An agreement to that effect was signed in Dar es Salaam today by the deputy principal secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Ndugu Abdi Msahangama, and the director general of the Finnish International Development Agency in the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Kai Heleni. [Summary] [*Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Feb 85 EA*]

UGANDA

Diplomatic Relations Established With Thailand

EA161447 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Uganda and Thailand have established diplomatic relations. A joint communique issued in Kampala and Bangkok says the two countries will exchange diplomatic representatives at ambassadorial levels.

BURUNDI

Border, Security Issues Discussed With Tanzania

EA162131 Bujumbura Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Excerpt] A Tanzanian delegation led by Kigoma regional commissioner Ndugu Christopher Liundi, a member of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi National Executive Committee, met a Burundi delegation led by the governor of Makamba Province, Mr Vincent Bujenjegeri, a member of the Uprona Central Committee in Nyanza-Lac last week from 7 to 8 February for a working session. The Burundi delegation consisted of governors from provinces bordering with Tanzania, notably Muyinga, Chankuzo, (?Riyigi), and Rutana.

On this occasion, the two delegations held talks on security questions and exchanged information covering various fields. On security along the Tanzania-Burundi border, the participants at the meeting observed that the situation was satisfactory during the period from 2 July to 17 October 1984. However, some incidents occured during the period from 17 October 1984 to 7 February 1985.

The two delegations agreed to take the following measures: regular meetings between the border authorities at all levels, zones, communes, as well as provinces; immediate communication through the border authorities on any incident that may affect the tranquillity of the people living along the border; setting up immigration points in the border provinces on the Burundi side as well as on the Tanzanian side, to observe the movement of people living along the border. A report will be prepared and submitted to the respective regional governors 1 month before the next meeting of immigration officials, which will be held in Burundi.

CAMEROON

British Official Meets With Biya, Comments

AB151530 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] The head of state, Paul Biya, this morning received the British minister of trade [title as heard], Paul Channon. Mr Channon, who has been on a working visit to Cameroon since Wednesday, later talked to staff reporter Charles Lanze about his meeting with the head of state.

[Begin recording][Channon] I came to discuss with the president the prospects of increasing still further Anglo-Cameroonian commercial and political relations, and I must be very frank — the president received me in a most friendly manner and I believe that our relations are going to be even better in the future.

[Lanze] Sir, British business operations in Cameroon are not very much felt in the economy, and it would appear British businessmen have so far been reluctant in taking ventures in this country in spite of the decades of historical ties between Great Britain and Cameroon. What, in your opinion, explains such feet dragging by the British businessmen given the opportunities existing in this country?

[Channon] Well, I don't know the past. All I can tell you is that in the future the British are going to be back here in a big way. We are going to soon see British firms (?which will win) contracts here, possibly road contracts, hospital contracts, all sorts of things. There are going to be all sorts of areas in Cameroonian life where [words indistinct] doing good projects to the mutual interests of both the United Kingdom and Cameroon. And I am more and more confident that we can strengthen our commercial ties. I have seen many British businessmen in Cameroon. There is a great deal of interest. You will find that a very big [words indistinct]. [end recording]

CHAD

Ndjamena on Campaign of 'Lies, Misinformation'

AB161457 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] Both national and world opinion has been subjected these past few days to a press campaign against Chad that is both malicious and dangerous. This sustained campaign of lies and misinformation, which seems to be led once more by Radio France International [RFI], is aimed not only at tarnishing the image of the government of the Third Republic but, what is more serious, it is designed to create tension between Chad and its neighbors with the obvious aim of deteriorating the harmonious relationship we have with these countries, that is the CAR and the Democratic Republic of Sudan.

In fact, based on false and grossly alarmist assertions being made by "humanitarian organizations" or by individuals claiming to belong to these organizations whose honesty is doubtful, Radio France International is spreading lies. The Chadian National Armed Forces [FANT] are accused of illegally crossing the CAR border and forcefully repatriating Chadian refugees taken hostage; the Chadian Government is accused of blocking food supplies to the south, of violating human rights or forcefully repatriating Chadian refugees from Sudan, and so on.

The government of the Third Republic, which is conscious of the true [word indistinct] and obscure reasons underlying this campaign of lies against Chad, would like to inform public opinion that the FANT have never crossed any border, either in the south, the east, or elsewhere.

The real illegal crossing of the border between Chad and the CAR was done by two secret agents disguised as journalists of the *LE FIGARO* newspaper who entered Chad clandestinely from the CAR, but RFI does not mention this. Also, the government has never been tempted to forcefully repatriate Chadian refugees to their own country.

The reality is much simpler. There is a massive and voluntary return of Chadians living abroad, from both occupied territories and even Libya, and this has been going on for months. The brilliant success of our policy of national reconciliation and national harmony hardly pleases the enemies of the Chadian people because it jeopardizes the imperialist and annexationist plans made abroad to decide the lot of Chadians without the consent of the Chadians and their government.

This ridiculous campaign launched by organizations like the UN High Commission for Refugees or Amnesty International, which loves suspense, has three aims: first, the destabilization of Chad from inside Chad; second, the isolation of Chad at the regional and international levels; third, forcing the government of the Third Republic to resign in spite of its historic mission and to give up Chad to the mercy of Al-Qadhdhafi.

In the face of this situation in which hardly hidden threats loom over Chad both internally and externally, the government reaffirmed its strong determination to defend the revolutionary achivements of the Chadian people at all costs, and to safeguard their attachment to the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of Chad.

Rebels Accuse CAR Officials of Collaboration

AB182211 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1900 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] The Chadian rebels have accused certain civilian and military officials of the CAR of having collaborated with the Ndjamena forces in their operation against the Chadian refugees in the CAR. The operation reportedly resulted in the death of more than six persons last year.

GABON

SWAPO Leader Nujoma Arrives for Talks 15 Feb

AB160953 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Sam Nujoma, president of SWAPO, arrived in Libreville this afternoon. Mr Nujoma was welcomed upon his arrival by Martin Bongo, minister of state and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. Also present at the airport was the permanent secretary of the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador (Hubert Rastanga). The leader of the SWAPO, which is fighting for the independence of Namibia, will hold talks with Gabonese political authorities.

Ready To Sign Agreement

AB181352 Paris AFP in English 1133 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Libreville, Feb 18 (AFP) — Sam Nujoma, leader of the Namibian nationalist Southwest Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), said here he was ready to sign a "negotiation agreement" with South Africa in an effort to bring peace to the region. He was speaking to journalists after a meeting with Gabonese President Omar Bongo on Saturday.

Mr Nujoma denounced "the escalation of fighting" between South African troops and Namibian guerrillas and accused South Africa of increasing obstacles to the independence of Namibia, which is ruled by Pretoria in defiance of United Nations Resolutions.

The SWAPO leader said his guerrilla movement would "continue its struggle against South African oppression and Namibia will never be dominated by a white miniority."

ZAIRE

Mokolo Reaffirms Guidelines of Foreign Policy

AB171320 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1045 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Text] Kinshasa, 16 Feb (AZAP) — On Friday, Citizen Mokolo wa Mpombo, state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation, reaffirmed before the diplomatic corps accredited to Kinshasa the guidelines of Zaire's foreign policy: respect for the sovereignty of states, thus implying noninterference in the domestic affairs of other states; an open-door policy of cooperation for mutual interests and mutual respect; a systematic search for peace, dialogue, and good neighborliness; as well as a constant readiness to honor Zaire's commitments to the United Nations and the OAU.

Citizen Mokolo was speaking on the occasion of a dinner party he organized at the Intercontinental Hotel on Friday in honor of members of the diplomatic corps to mark his first contact with them. He recalled that the fundamental principles of Zaire's foreign policy were clearly defined on 5 December 1984 and 6 January 1985 by Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, founding chairman of the MPR and president of the Republic. He said according to the Zairian Constitution, the president of the Republic directs and controls the Republic's foreign policy.

The state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation, who promised to do everything to scrupulously implement the head of state's instructions and directives, in accordance with diplomatic regulations, paid a deserving tribute to the founding-chairman of the MPR for the confidence he has in him by appointing him to head the Zairian diplomatic service and hailed the special care and attention he continues to give for the smooth running of the diplomatic function to which he has dedicated a special day on 6 January each year.

The state commissioner took the opportunity to recall Zaire's position on current burning issues, notably on the OAU, the SDAR, Chad, southern Africa, the league of black African states, the Middle East, and the North-South dialogue.

On the suspension of Zaire's activities within the OAU, Citizen Mokolo, recalling the head of state's response to this subject, said, "it is a question of principle, since there was a deliberate violation of the OAU Charter by admitting the SDAR, which is not a state, and still less an independent and sovereign state." But this suspension of activities within the organization does not in any way affect Zaire's dedication to the African cause, for faithful to its principles, Zaire will always continue to work for African unity.

Concerning the idea of the creation of a league of black African states, he criticized some evil-minded people who interpret this as a way to divide Africa, "but it is nothing of the sort," he pointed out. "The MPR founding-chairman's concern in launching that idea is to echo the special solidarity and characteristics peculiar to certain communities within the greater family of the OAU."

He announced that very soon, at the initiative of the founding-chairman, a real crusade and a vast explanation and sensibilization campaign is going to be launched on this subject in Africa.

It was also out of principle that Zaire went to Chad in response to a call by a legitimate government that was being attacked, the state commissioner continued. "Zaire intends encouraging a policy of reconciliation among Chadians within the framework of legitimacy, while at the same time it will continue to help that sister country to organize itself for self-defense." He stated that Zaire will continue to firmly fight against racial discrimination and the odious apartheid policy — which is a crime against human dignity — that Pretoria pursues. He said Zaire will also struggle against the many obstacles that South Africa has strewn on the path that leads to Namibia's independence.

On the Western Sahara, Citizen Mokolo reaffirmed Zaire's position, which remains based on two fundamental elements: the organization of a referendum as was decided by the OAU and the nonrecognition of the SDAR.

Concerning the Middle East conflict, Citizen Mokolo pointed out that apart from Zaire's recognition of the PLO in 1975 as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, Zaire believes that the resolution of the conflict lies in the recognition of the right of each state in the region to live in peace within recognized borders, the respect of the territorial integrity and political independence of states in the region, and the respect and recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to create a homeland or an independent sovereign state under the leadership of leaders of their own choice.

In the face of the economic crisis the world is going through, the state commissioner said that there is only one policy: the strengthening of solidarity and cooperation among nations and peoples.

"It is time global negotiations on primary commodities resumed as soon as possible as envisaged within the framework of the North-South dialogue in order to help bring about a new and just international economic order," he added.

He stated that Zaire will do everything not only to develop its friendly relations of cooperation with its traditional friends, but it will also try in the future to create new cooperative links throughout the world in order to enhance the success of the vast program of the founding chairman's third term of office, which is based on social development.

Having promised an "easy" dialogue with the diplomats accredited to Kinshasa, Citizen Mokolo asked them to present the real image of Zaire to their respective states in order to help Zaire obtain from them the assistance and cooperation within the framework of their relations of friendship and solidarity.

Speaking on behalf of his colleagues, the dean of the diplomatic corps, Gaston Flankan, the Ivorian ambassador, expressed his satisfaction over the dinner, which has enabled them to get to know the new minister of foreign affairs.

At a time when Zaire is beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel, thanks to the good management recognized by all its partners, especially the IMF, no friendly country represented here has anything to gain by hindering the efforts of Zaire, the dean of the diplomatic corps said.

Citizen Mokolo was accompanied on the occasion by his close aides, notably Citizen Nyiwa Mobutu, secretary of state for foreign affairs, and Citizen Bolambu wa Mwenda, secretary general of that ministry.

Panel Sets Guinea, Guinea-Bissau Maritime Boundary

AB181925 Paris AFP in French 1539 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] The Hague, 18 Feb (AFP) — Last Friday's judgment of the arbitration tribunal set up to solve the maritime delimitation dispute between Guinea-Bissau and Guinean-Conakry pointed out that "the boundary of the maritime territories of the two states must follow successively the pass of the pilots, beginning from the mouth of the Cajet, up to 12 miles west of the Guinean island of Alcatraz, (then) to the external limit of the maritime territories recognized by general international law." The judgement by this tribunal, which is independent from the International Court of Justice of the Hague, has thus come to solve the dispute in favor of Guinea-Bissau, which now has nearly two-thirds of the disputed area.

It will be recalled that the dispute was born out of conflicting interpretations of an agreement signed in 1886 between Portugal and France, then administrative powers in the two countries. According to Guinea-Conakry — which began to prospect for oil in the area in 1980 — this agreement had set the maritime border, while Gunica-Bissau believed that the document only set out the boundaries of the several islands in the area.

The tribunal believed that France and Portugal "did not, in 1886, intend to establish a general maritime boundary." The arbitration tribunal included Judges Keba Mbaye (Senegal), Mohamed Bedjaoui (Algeria), and President Manfred Lachs (Poland).

BURKINA

Imperialism Blamed for Sankara Assassination Attempt

AB171450 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Comrade Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and president of Burkina Faso, this morning presided over the ceremony marking the inauguration of the extension works on the runway of the Bobo Dioulasso Airport. Colette Tapsoba sent in this report:

[Begin recording] [Tapsoba] A dream has become a reality with the inauguration of the extension works on the Bobo Dioulasso Airport. The ceremony was presided over by Comrade Thomas Sankara, president of the Faso, surrounded by other members of the revolutionary government; the Ivorian minister of public works, posts, and telecommunications, Ange Barry-Battesti; the high commissioner of We Province; the local commander of the Army; and several ambassadors accredited to our country, as well as several militants in We Province.

Speaking at the ceremony, Comrade Yacouba Traore, the high commissioner for We Province, thanked the CNR for keeping its promise by enabling the extension works of the Bobo Dioulasso Airport runway to begin. He noted with satisfaction the presence of Ange Barry-Battesti, the Ivorian minister, at this ceremony, which shows the active solidarity between Burkina Faso and the Ivory Coast. The high commissioner also insisted on recalling the horrible assassination attempt that nearly cost the life of the president of the Faso. Let's listen to the high commissioner:

[Traore] We cannot help recalling with deep emotion, Mr Minister of the Ivory Coast, that only a few days ago, Captain Thomas Sankara, chairman of the CNR, on a working visit to your country, nearly became the victim of an odious assassination attempt. A monstrous assassination attempt hatched by international imperialism and its local lackeys. [shouts from the audience: Down with international imperialism! Down with international reactionaries!] It was not without some apprehension that we, militants of the Popular Democratic Revolution, met with the delegation to your country, but it was of such importance to us that we felt the trip was justified. Our president went to the Ivory Coast to accomplish a sacred duty, a duty of friendship that solidarity between member-states of the Entente Council demands. In spite of everything, he went to the Ivory Coast, especially since the Burkinabe people have sworn to fight for the fatherland even up to the supreme sacrifice if necessary. As our motto says, comrades: "The Fatherland or Death!" [audience: We will win!]

Mr Minister of Communications from the Republic of Ivory Coast, we dare hope that the government of your country had nothing to do with this ignoble assassination attempt and that diligent investigations will be conducted to find the guilty ones and punish them. In any case, we, the militants of We Province, on behalf of all the militants of the Popular and Democratic Revolution [RDP] of Burkina Faso, denounce with all our might that sordid assassination attempt and call for a report on it.

[Tapsoba] The last to speak was Comrade Omar Diawara, minister of transport and communications. He said 17 February 1985 will be marked in golden letters in the annals of the city of Bobo Dioulasso. He then explained that what the CNR has just done is aimed especially at proving to the world and the divider of peoples that Bobo Dioulasso is an integral part of the RDP. Here is an extract of his speech:

[Diawara] The new runway will be constructed to receive big carriers: DC-10's, Airbuses, Boeing 747's, and so on. It will be 3,300 meters long and 45 meters wide. The extent of the construction works is such that the Bobo-Horodara road will be diverted. The resumption of activities of the Bobo airport and other CNR projects are expected to revive economic activities of the city. Bobo will be linked with other regional airports to play its role as an international crossroads and as a stopover point in the Dakar-Niamey transversal air route.

Comrade militants, our revolution is not directed against any country or any people. We respect our people and respect the people of the world. That is why I have the pleasure of announcing to you that the brotherly people of Ivory Coast are joining us in the accomplishment of this project. The Ivorian minister of public works and telecommunications, at the head of his delegation, is here to confirm this. This is clear proof that there is no dispute between the Ivorian and Burkinabe people. It also proves that only the masses are the active elements in the history of the world.

[Tapsoba] It should be noted that the extension works of the Bobo Dioulasso Airport will be carried out by Cuban and Ivorian technicians. [end recording]

Sankara Comments on Visit to Ivory Coast

AB181155 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Bobo Dioulasso, the chief town of We Province, was yesterday, Sunday, honored with the inauguration of the extension works of the airport runway and the mammoth rally organized yesterday afternoon by the women of Bobo. Both events took place in the presence of Comrade Captain Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and president of the Faso, and some members of the revolutionary government.

Speaking at the rally, the CNR chairman discussed certain aspects of the national situation with the women of Bobo. He urged them to be vigilant and to get mobilized in order to foil the machinations of mind poisoners and enemies of the Popular and Democratic Revolution.

Before returning to Ouagadougou, the president of the CNR and of the Faso expressed his sentiments to Radio Bobo reporters Edouard Ouedraogo and Baba Cissoko.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] As the comrade high commissioner for We Province was saying [words indistinct] concerning your activities and the state of your health. Comrade President, how are you feeling?

[Sankara] I am feeling like a revolutionary. Well, from time to time [words indistinct], but that is quite normal. This is due to the fact that the job that we must do — it is not up to a single person — the job is enormous, it must be done daily, and it is permanent. Some people think that because of this there is a problem, but this is not true. We feel very well.

[Reporter] Comrade President, one of the reasons for your visit to Bobo Dioulasso was to officially inaugurate the extention works of the airport, which is expected to attain international status. We also heard about the arrival of Cubans, who were particularly solicited. What has become of these Cubans?

[Sankara] It was with the consent of Comrade Fidel Castro that we adopted our strategy. So these Cubans, if they are not at this airport, for reasons we have already talked about... [Sankara changes thought] In any case, under their guidance, there will be Cubans on other economic projects in the field of [word indistinct].

[Reporter] Comrade President, you have returned from Yamoussoukro where you participated in the summit of heads of state of the Entente Council. How did you find this short stay in Ivorian territory, which you were visiting for the first time as president of the Faso?

[Sankara] During our stay in Yamoussoukro, I had the opportunity to meet heads of state of Entente Council member-states. I had very fruitful discussions with them — (?the need for unity), the powers to be given to each member-state, our point of view on this or that issue, and settling bilateral issues with each of them. It was a working summit. [Words indistinct] my work, which I did. In this context, I was (?satisfied).

[Reporter] If you were invited to pay an official visit to Ivory Coast, would you be ready to go?

[Sankara] If I were invited for an official visit to Ivory Coast, nothing would prevent me and nothing would disturb me about going. On the contrary, I believe that the Burkinabe people, through me, have a message [words indistinct] and someone should go and spread this message. Well, if I should be chosen as your spokesman, I would go.

[Reporter] To Yamoussoukro or Abidjan?

[Sankara] Anywhere at all. We will be ready to make this trip so that the message is conveyed as it should be. [passage indistinct]

I had the opportunity to ask President Houphouet-Boigny whether the report that he said that he had decided never to set foot in Burkina Faso because at a certain time his visit here [words indistinct]. When I asked him this question he gave me a reply that was clear, direct, and frank. In any case, he said it was not true, and that he has not visited because authorities here have never invited him. [end recording]

Sankara Receives Congolese Minister 16 Feb

AB170915 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 16 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The comrade president of Burkina Faso this afternoon received in audience the Congolese delegation currently attending the Burkina-Congo joint cooperation commission. After the audience, Bamba Yaya of the national television and Sacre Seydou Ouedraogo of the national radio interviewed Comrade Ndinga-Oba:

[Begin Ndinga-Oba recording] Comrades, as you know very well, Comrade Presidents Thomas Sankara and Denis Sassou-Nguesso are very good friends, and when a Congolese delegation happens to be here for a meeting, it is an excellent opportunity to talk to President Thomas Sankara. And naturally we have to talk about the political experiences of the two countries. As you know, generally we have the same political, economic, social, and even cultural objectives. We review all these objectives and discuss how to improve our relations and common objectives for the benefit of our two peoples.

We also discussed the international situation, especially the African economic and political situation. There is the problem of South Africa, as you know very well, and the problem of the Frontline States, which are confronted with the problem of provocation and threats from South Africa against their very existence. Then there is also the situation in Namibia, as you know very well. So, in all, we reviewed our bilateral relations and the situation on the international scene. [end recording]

GAMBIA

Country Marks 20th Anniversary of Independence

AB181601 Paris AFP in English 1451 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Banjul, Feb 18 (AFP) — Gambia today marked 20th anniversary of independence with a joint parade of Gambian and Senegalese troops watched by Gambian leader Sir Dawda Jawara and visiting Nigerian head of state Major General Muhammadu Buhari.

The Nigerian leader began a three-day visit to Gambia yesterday in his first official trip outside Nigeria since coming to power in a coup December 31, 1983.

Senegalese Foreign Minister Ibrahima Fall attended today's ceremonies as representative of Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, who is currently on a visit to Morocco. Senegal and the Gambia joined together in the Senegambian Confederation in February 1982 following an unsuccessful coup attempt here several months earlier which was put down with the help of Senegalese troops.

Nigerians Visit for Joint Commission Meeting

AB152030 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] A four-man delegation led by the minister of national planning, Chief Michael Adigun, is in Banjul to attend the inaugural session of the Nigeria-Gambia joint commission beginning today in the Gambian capital. Other members of the delegation are the ministers of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari; mines, power, and steel, Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman; and Major General Ibrahim Babangida, chief of Army staff.

The meeting is expected to center on agriculture, transport and aviation, technical assistance, as well as petroleum, commerce, and industries. It will be recalled that in 1983, Nigeria and the Gambia signed a bilateral agreement which made provision for cooperation in many fields, including establishment and running of joint industrial, commercial, and technical enterprises.

The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, is expected to visit the Gambia on Sunday on a 2-day visit. During the visit, Gen Buhari will discuss bilateral issues with the Gambian leader, Sir Dawda Jawara. The visit will also afford the head of state the opportunity to witness that country's 28th [as heard] independence anniversary.

Meeting Starts

AB170900 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The Nigeria-Gambia joint commission has been inaugurated in Banjul, the Gambian capital. In a speech on the occasion, the minister of national planning, Chief Michael Adigun, expressed the ardent hope that the two delegations would achieve the mutual objectives of their countries during the session. Chief Adigun urged the participants to finalize the fishing and bilateral air services agreements as well as the program for technical cooperation between the two countries.

GHANA

Cooperation Agreement Initialed With Cuba

AB152052 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Ghana and Cuba today signed an agreement in Accra to cooperate in a number of fields. The agreement was reached after a 5-day working session between the two countries. The agreement covers health, education, sports, transport, and communications. Others are fishing, tobacco growing, the sugar industry, information, trade, and banking. This was the second session of the intergovernmental joint commission for the economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries. The first session of the commission was held in Havana, Cuba, in 1983.

According to the protocol, a team of Cuban doctors who came to Ghana in 1984 and went back to Cuba on leave will return for a 2-year tour. Apart from the doctors, a medical brigade will be sent to Ghana to serve in the rural areas. The two countries have also agreed to cooperate in research into tropical medicine.

In sports, Ghana will send two coaches to Cuba for training. In fishing, Cuba is offering a team of middle-level technicians to Ghana. Ghana has agreed that the two sugar industries at Asutsuare and Komenda should take off this year with Cuban assistance. On trade, the two countries will exchange goods. Every year, 20 students at the University of Ghana who study Spanish will go to Cuba for further studies. Such students were formerly being sent to Spain for such a language course, but it was considered very expensive.

Addressing the closing session, the secretary for transport and communications, Mr Kwame Peprah, assured the Cubans that the agreement would be implemented. He described it as a collaboration and cooperation between South and South. The leader of the Cuban delegation, Mr Manuel Vila Sosa, who is his country's minister of internal trade, expressed the hope that the agreement would serve as part of his country's contributions to Ghana.

The third intergovernmental joint commission meeting will be held in the Cuban capital, Havana, in January 1987.

Cuban Official Departs

AB181847 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Mr (Rudolfo Apesegroya), deputy leader of the Cuban delegation to the just-ended second session of the Ghana-Cuba joint permanent commission, has expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the week-long meeting.

He was speaking at the Kotoka International Airport just before he left for home. Mr (Apesegroya) said the agreements reached at the meeting form the basis for widening the scope of economic cooperation and expansion between Ghana and Cuba. He said the relations between the two countries are now at their highest level following the visit of the Provisional National Defense Council chairman, Flight Lieutenant J.J. Rawlings, to Cuba last year in return to one by the Cuban foreign minister.

The leader of the Cuban delegation, Mr Manuel Vila Sosa, minister of internal trade, left last Friday.

Delegation Departs for Cooperation Talks With Libya

AB171010 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] A 7-man Ghana Government delegation led by the special advisor to the Provisional National Defense Council (PNDC), Captain Kojo Tsikata, has flown to Tripoli for the inaugural and first session of the Ghana-Libya joint commission for economic cooperation.

The delegation comprises the secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Asamoah, and a representative each from the Ministries of Finance, Trade, and state commission for economic cooperation. It will be away for 3 days.

Speaking before departure, Capt Kojo Tsikata said, during the session, the two sides will evaluate and assess the joint projects which have been agreed upon between the two countries and define means and ways at intensifying the economic relations between Ghana and Libya.

The agreement establishing the commission was reached in February 1982 in Tripoli during a visit by a Ghana Government delegation.

NIGERIA

Buhari Leaves for Official Visit to Gambia

AB171000 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Nigeria's head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, left Lagos for Banjul today on a 3-day official visit to the Gambia. He is accompanied by the military governor of Ondo State, Commodore M.B. Otiko; the minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari; the minister of information, social development, youth, sports, and culture, Group Captain Samson Omeroah.

SENEGAL

Diouf Returns From 'Private' Visit to Morocco

AB180740 Dakar Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] President Abdou Diouf returned yesterday afternoon from Morocco at the end of a short private visit. It was his [word indistinct] visit to the Moroccan Kingdom. The head of state held a second round of private talks with the Moroccan king shortly before his return home.

TOGO

Eyadema Receives SDAR Foreign Minister 15 Feb

AB152140 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] The president of the republic, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, this morning received Hakim Ibrahim, member of the Polisario Front Political Bureau and SDAR minister of foreign affairs. The SDAR foreign minister delivered a message from Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the SDAR. After the meeting, Mr Hakim told the press that the message from his president to the Togolese head of state was on the good relations between Togo and the SADR.

[Begin Hakim recording] I delivered a written message from President Mohamed Abdelaziz to his brother, President Eyadema. The message was on our bilateral relations, and it also falls within the framework of the permanent desire of the SDAR people and leadership to inform our brother and friend, President Eyadema, about the situation prevailing in our country because of the war. As you are aware, Togo supports the SDAR people. You are also aware of the courage and sincerity with which President Eyadema has always supported fighting peoples in Africa. Our people are among these people. That is why we, as fighting African people, consider it a duty to President Eyadema to come and inform him regularly about developments in the situation and especially to thank him and express all the gratitude of our people for the support he has always given us and other people of Africa. [end recording]

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Returns From Sao Tome Summit

MB180708 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Exceprt] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the Republic, yesterday returned from Sao Tome and Principe, where he attended the proceedings of the 5th summit of the heads of state of the Portuguese-speaking African countries.

BOTSWANA

Masire Comments on RSA Border Relations

MB180605 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 0510 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] The president, Dr Quett Masire, said the foreign ministers of Botswana and South Africa are expected to meet in South Africa later this month. In an interview on Wednesday with Allister Sparks, the South African correspondent for *THE WASHINGTON POST* and London *OBSERVER* newspapers, the president explained that the meeting will discuss recent threats by South Africa that it would consider marching its troops into Botswana under the pretext of hot pursuit. Dr Masire said that the pressure put on Botswana by South Africa to sign an Nkomati type of accord and to recognize Bophuthatswana is taking a new dimension with the latest threats by Bophuthatswana to invade.

Asked whether Bophuthatswana had an army capable of invading Botswana, the president said that South Africa might put on the homeland's uniform and attack Botswana under the pretext of having been invited by Bophuthatswana to do so. The president reiterated that Botswana saw no reasons why it should enter into a peace treaty with South Africa, since they were not at war. He said to sign an accord with South Africa would compromise Botswana's good relationships with other African states.

Dr Masire said that countries like South Africa think they are being defied when one talks of the Geneva convention, but Botswana would continue receiving genuine refugees who flee apartheid laws from South Africa, as it is an obligation under the Geneva convention to do so. However, he said, since those fleeing the country were not branded, it was possible that some of them were not genuine refugees.

He reminded South Africa that a border is a dividing line between countries, and since Botswana cannot patrol every meter of her border, South Africa would do it on the other side to prevent infiltration of (?freedom fighters) from entering her soil. The president said that if South Africa failed to prevent them, then Botswana was the last country to be expected to do that effectively with her small army.

Legislator Told RSA Police Cross Into Country

MB151803 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1610 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Employees of the Commonwealth Development Corporation ranches at Boshoek have told their member of parliament, Mr Michael Tshipinare, about the alleged maltreatment by some of the foremen on the farms. The farmers alleged that one of the foremen was in habit of insulting them and even threatened to shoot them with a rifle.

Mr Tshipinare, who is also assistant minister of local government and lands, heard that South African police often cross into Botswana to arrest suspects.

Mr Tshipinare told the Boshoek residents that according to the law nobody was allowed to insult another person. He also said that it was wrong for South African policemen to cross into Botswana without permission.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Returns From Summit, Stops Over in Luanda

MB170647 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] President Samora Machel returned to Maputo yesterday after attending the Sao Tome summit of the heads of state of the Portuguese-speaking African countries. Samora Machel and his delegation left the Sao Tomean capital at about 1000, Maputo time, soon after the departure of Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

On his way back home, Marshal Samora Machel made a brief stopover in Luanda, where he was received by his Angolan counterpart. President Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde and President Joao Bernardo Vieira of Guinea-Bissau also arrived in Luanda. They were received at the airport by Presidents Samora Machel and Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

RSA's Rev Boesak Continues Visit to Maputo

Criticizes RSA

MB151414 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] The Reverend Allan Boesak, a leading South African antiapartheid campaigner, has said the Pretoria regime has been trying to drive a wedge between the people of South Africa and the rest of the people in the southern region.

Addressing a meeting in Maputo last night, Dr Boesak said after South Africa has signed the Nkomati Accord with Mozambique last March, the regime tried to tell the South African people that Mozambicans no longer cared for the struggle for liberation in South Africa. Dr Boesak said: I have come here to say we do not believe that. He added that history has brought Mozambicans and South Africans together and that the struggle is one, indeed the struggle for all.

He said he has come to Mozambique to ask the Mozambican people to continue the struggle against apartheid until the system is dismantled.

Dr Boesak said as long as apartheid and racism reigned in South Africa, people in the region must be honest enough to say the South African Government is a threat to peace in our region. He said one cannot be a peacemaker abroad while being a destroyer of peace at home. He said, however, it remains true that as long as the people of South Africa are not free, the Mozambican people cannot be completely free.

Dr Boesak is on a 3-day visit to Mozambique at the invitation of the country's international friendship and solidarity association.

At a press conference in the association's headquarters this morning, he gave his views on some of the major issues in South Africa today. He described the new tricameral parliament system as a cruel joke being played on the South African people. The Indian and Colored chambers, he said, were not addressing major questions such as the war in Namibia, but dealt with details of petty apartheid such as the possibility of mixed bathing in public swimming pools.

Dr Boesak also referred to the possibility that the South African Government might introduce compulsory military service for Indians and Coloreds. He said he almost wished the government would do this because it would lead to major resistance campaigns. Our young people, he said, will not go into their army.

Honored at Meeting

MB151443 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] A political and cultural session marking the friendship and solidarity day between the Mozambican and South African peoples was held at one of Maputo's theaters last night. Rev Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and one of the patrons of the United Democratic Front of South Africa, was the guest of honor.

The distinguished visitor delivered a vigorous and brilliant speech during which he exposed the various aspects of the apartheid policy followed by the Pretoria regime. In his speech, which was repeatedly interrupted by applause, Allan Boesak demanded from the Pretoria regime the release of all political prisoners, end of forced removals of people to bantustans, and equal rights for all South African citizens without discrimination based on the color of skin.

Visits Graves of RSA 'Victims'

MB151902 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] South African antiapartheid campaigner Allan Boesak today paid homage to his countrymen who have died in Mozambique during South African military aggressions. Dr Boesak, who is president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, is on a 3-day visit to Mozambique.

Today he was taken by his host, the Mozambican International Friendship Association, to the town of Matola, where he saw 3 houses attacked by the South African Army 4 years ago. A total of 13 members of the ANC, who were in the houses at the time of the raid, were killed and are buried at a Maputo cemetery alongside five other victims of South African attacks. Dr Boesak today visited their graves and laid a wreath. At the cemetry, Radio Maputo asked Dr Boesak what his impressions were after the visits to Matola and to the graves of the martyrs:

[Begin Boesak recording] I am deeply moved and at the same time deeply angered. It is not easy to see those places that have been shot up by the South African Defense Force and to think of the people who have lost their lives there. It is not easy to stand at their graves, and I am deeply grateful for the Mozambican Government that they have given them this place of honor in the cemetary. At the same time I must say that my own resolve to continue to fight the regime in Pretoria that can be so ruthless has been strengthened today. One discovers that one's commitment to the struggle cannot waver and should not be allowed to be undermined when one faces moments like this. I have come away from this place deeply saddened, but also deeply strengthened and more committed than ever, and I will try my best to relay this message to the people of South Africa so that they know that we all have the responsibility to make sure that these people have not died in vain. [end recording]

Meets With Machel

MB180715 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] President Samora Machel said today Mozambique is on the side of the South African people in the struggle against apartheid. President Samora Machel expressed this support during a meeting in Maputo this morning with South African anti-apartheid campaigner the Reverand Allan Boesak, who is the head of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. President Samora Machel said: We are on the side of the South African people. The struggle continues and we will win. Injustice has never been victorious. He described apartheid as the main source of instability in southern Africa, adding that the system causes disunity, confusion, and backwardness in the region.

Dr Boesak said the struggle inside South Africa needs the support of all peace-loving peoples of the world, and that pressure should continue to be brought upon the Pretoria government. He told the Mozambican leader that the struggle inside South Africa today involved everybody: workers, the youth, and the churches. He said the people of South Africa highly appreciate the bonds of friendship and solidarity that unite them to the Mozambican people. Dr Boesak said: We are here to tell you that it makes no difference what the situation is. We must never be disunited.

The meeting between President Samora Machel and Dr Boesak lasted nearly 1 hour at the presidential palace. Dr Boesak left Maputo this afternoon on his way to the South African port city of Durban. He arrived in Maputo on Thursday at the invitation of Mozambique's international friendship and solidarity association, AMASP. He addressed a public solidarity meeting to celebrate the day of friendship between the peoples of Mozambique and South Africa declared by President Samora Machel 3 years ago.

The power supply to Maputo city was sabotaged a few minutes before Dr boesak made his speech on Thursday night. He told Radio Maputo that he did not think it was coincidence that there was sabotage, adding that the speech was made and the response of the people was tremendous. Power lines carrying electricity to Maputo from South Africa have been sabotaged close to the South African border.

SOUTH AFRICA

Police Raid Anti-Apartheid Organizations Nationwide

MB190900 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0800 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] There is a countrywide crackdown on anti-apartheid organizations. South African security police have raided homes and offices in Johannesburg, Durban, and the Cape Province. James Lorimer has been keeping an eye on developments.

[Begin recording] [Lorimer] At least 11 people have been arrested, and their lawyer says at least four of them on charges of high treason. Those picked up are United Democratic Front [UDF] President Albertina Sisulu, National Secretary (Popo Molefe), National Treasurer Casim Saloojee, and Transvaal Vice President Frank Chikane. Also held are Anti-Presidents Council Committee leader Ismail Mahomed, women's movement activist (June Mlangeni), her daughter (Sylvia Mkize), and son-in-law (Nicholas Mkize). Police raided homes with warrants of search and arrest from about 0300 this morning. In Johannesburg, the UDF offices were raided, as were the organization's offices in Cape Town, where UDF secretary Trevor Manuel was said to have been taken into custody. A bookshop belonging to top UDF member Andrew Boraine was raided in Observatory, as were the Grassroots Community Center. Two UDF activists are also reported to have been detained in Oudtshoorn. There have been a number of raids in Durban. Carmel Rickard has details.

[Rickard] A number of people in Durban claim they were woken early this morning by men identifying themselves as members of the security police. So far, the list of those visited this morning includes the Natal UDF publicity officer Zac Jacoob, photographer Omar Badsha, social worker Roy Padaychee, Natal Indian Congress executive members Praveen Gordha, Farouk Meer, and Ella Ramgobin. Others are United Committee of Concern executive member Virgil Bonhomme and UDF executive member Yunus Mohammed. All say their homes and offices were searched, and that documents, pamphlets, notes, and books were confiscated. When I called the Durban UDF office shortly before 0900, a man identifying himself as a member of the security answered the phone. According to the caretaker of the building where the office is housed, the police are searching the premises. [end recording]

6 Face Treason Charges

MB190930 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0920 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 19, SAPA — Police today confirmed the arrest of six anti-apartheid campaigners who they said would appear in court next month with others at present in Durban jail on charges of treason.

Although sources in the United Democratic Front [UDF] and Transvaal Indian Congress [TIC] said 11 of their members had been arrested in countrywide swoops at dawn today, a police spokesman in Pretoria confirmed only six arrests.

They were named as UDF president, Mrs Albertina Sisulu, UDF vice-president of the Transvaal, Mr Frank Chikane, UDF national treasurer, Mr Cassim Saloojee, and Professor Ismail Mahomed.

Police said they also arrested Mr Isaac Ngcobo and Mr Samuel Kikine, a member of the SA Allied Workers Union, who was one of 15 Section 28 detainees released on Dec 10 last year. Six of the released were redetained and are in a Durban jail awaiting the treason trial, set for March 29.

The police spokesman said the people arrested today would also appear in the March hearing, bringing to 12 the number of people who will be tried for treason. Police said they were continuing a search of the offices of various organisations, which they did not name.

A UDF spokesman, Mr Patrick Lephunya, told SAPA by telephone he could not talk as the police were still searching the organisation's Johannesburg offices.

The six treason prisoners at present in a Durban jail are Natal Indian Congress leaders Mr Mewa Ramgobin, Mr George Sewpersadh and Mr M. Naidoo, Dr Essop Jassat, president of the TIC, and Mr Curtis Nkondo and Mr Aubrey Mokoena, both of the Release Mandela Committee.

Those arrested today will be charged in court on February 21, police said.

Violence Breaks Out at Crossroads Camp

Rumors of Forced Removals

MB181326 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] The death toll in unrest at the Crossroads Squatter Camp has risen to two. With the details, Beattie Hofmeyer:

[Begin recording] At least two people have died because of police action in the Crossroads Squatter Camp today. According to Police Media Liaison Officer Jan Calitz, 16 people have been injured so far. All access roads to Crossroads and surrounding areas have been sealed off, but sources inside the camp say the unrest in continuing. Buses and private cars were stoned this morning and six police vehicles were damaged by the crowd.

The unrest started when rumors that forced removals were starting today spread through the camp. The government intends to resettle all Crossroads residents in the new black township, Kayelitsha.

Viljoen Denies Rumors

MB181438 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] Five Progressive Federal Party members of Parliament visited the Crossroads area in the Cape Peninsula this afternoon after an outbreak of violence in which 3 people have been killed so far and 12 others have been seriously injured.

Our Cape Town staff reports that the police used teargas, rubber bullets, and birdshot in an attempt to quell the violence. Roads leading to Crossroads are blocked with tires, stumps, and rocks. After police have torn down the barricades, they are rebuilt as soon as police leave. The Fire Brigade was escorted into the area by the police to extinguish a bush fire which was threatening several shacks.

Several vehicles have been set on fire.

The chief commissioner of the Department of Cooperation and Development on the Western Cape, Mr Timo Bezuidenhout, has said he does not know the reasons for the violence which broke out early this morning.

Thousands of men, women, and children began stoning vehicles at about 0300 and all the roads into the Crossroads area were closed by police.

The minister of cooperation, development, and education, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, says no forced removals of people from Crossroads to the new Kayelitsha residential area are taking place at present. Dr Viljoen was responding to a query in Cape Town regarding reports that the violence at Crossroads is connected with forced removals. He said if any residents have moved to Kayelitsha today they have done so voluntarily.

In a statement issued last week, Dr Viljoen emphasized that the government wants to encourage people living in precarious conditions at the Crossroads area to use the opportunity to improve their living conditions by means of the urban renewal project at Kayelitsha.

'Antigovernment' Groups Spread Rumors

MB181927 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 18 Feb 85

[Text] The chief commissioner of the Department of cooperation and development in the Western Cape, Mr Timo Bezuidenhout, has urged residents at Crossroads not to pay attention to rumors that they will be moved out of the area.

Mr Bezuidenhout told the leaders of the (Zandbult) squatters that if removals were to take place, these would be discussed with them before hand. He said rumors which had been the cause of the unrest had been spread by antigovernment organizations. He added that innocent people had become involved. Mr Bezuidenhout also conveyed messages to the (Cathedral) squatters and the Crossroads squatters living in the same area.

Violence Continues

MB191154 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] After a fairly quiet morning at the Crossroads squatter camp near Cape Town, violence has again erupted there, as well as Yanga and Guguletha. Two vehicles of the Western Cape Development Baord were attacked, and one of them set on fire. A South African Broadcasting Corporation television news vehicle was stoned as well, but none of the occupants was injured.

Police were unsuccessful in trying to reason with a large crowd which had gathered in Lansdowne Road. The death toll at the squatter camp has risen to six, with the discovery of the body of a man. He has not been identified. Since the unrest broke out yesterday, 137 people have been injured, 20 of them seriously. Among those injured were five policemen.

The chief commissioner of cooperation and development in the Western Cape, Mr Timo Bezuidenhout, is to hold talks this afternoon with leaders of the squatter groups on the latest violence. The minister of cooperation, development, and education, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, has confirmed, meanwhile, that all interested parties will be consulted before anyone is moved from Crossroads to Khayelitsha. This, he said, would include black leaders.

In a statement issued yesterday, Dr Viljoen denied rumors that a large-scale removal of people from Crossroads to Khayelitsha was about to take place.

8 Killed

MB191426 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1418 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] Cape Town, Feb 19, SAPA — The death toll in the riots at Crossroads rose to eight today with 137 injured, Lieutenant Attie Laubscher of the Police Liuson Department said in Cape Town today.

Sporadic incidents of stone throwing occured throughout the day and the police were forced to close several roads in and near the squatter camp.

Last night the death toll was given as five but a sixth body was discovered this morning when police entered the riot torn area. In a skirmish between police and rioters shortly after 1 pm a man was shot dead and late this afternoon a youth between 12 and 15 years of age was shot dead when the police were attacked by a stone throwing mob.

The police are investigating two incidents when live ammunition was fired at the police. No one was hit but five policemen had suffered other light injuries.

Of the 137 injured rioters, 41 had been admitted to local hospitals.

A total of 16 police vehicles had been damaged by petrol bombs and rocks since yesterday while seven private vehicles had been stoned. Four vehicles had been set alight, including a milk delivery truck and a bakkie [pickup truck] belonging to the Western Cape Development Board.

SWAZILAND

Mfanasibili Warns of 'Antimonarchist' Coup Plot

MB170850 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English
17 Feb 85 Extra Section p 1

[Text] There is a plot to stage a coup and topple the monarchy in Swaziland, says Prince Mfanasibili, one of the most powerful members of the Liqoqo, the nation's Supreme Council of State.

Addressing a mass meeting at Siteki, near the Mozambique border, he warned against "antimonarchist elements".

The prince said that, after the death in 1982 of King Sobhuza, "we all accepted the fact that the king's son, Crown Prince Makhosetive, would be the future king".

But, he added, "power-hungry individuals" wanted to topple the monarchy.

He added that Prince Dumisa, another son of the late King Sobhuza, had held secret meetings in the Siteki area planning to stage a coup.

Prince Dumisa is now living in exile in Britain, where last month he announced the formation of the Swaziland Liberation Movement.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe on Possibility of Election Postponement

MB151910 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT
15 Feb 85

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, says a cabinet committee has been set up to look at whether or not it is possible to hold elections in March. Comrade Mugabe told members of the Commercial Farmers Union in Harare today that both the delimitation committee and the electoral directorate say their tasks are impossible to accomplish by March. He said the Cabinet will make a final decision on Tuesday, and efforts will be made to ensure that the election campaign does not disrupt farming activities.

The prime minister said the agricultural sector has a major role to play in the economic recovery of the country through sustained export expansion. Comrade Mugabe said efforts will be made to prevent escalating import costs, which erode export earnings, increase consumer prices and the rate of inflation, as well as reducing domestic demand. He said the government will look at the possibility of increasing foreign currency allocations to the agricultural sector. Comrade Mugabe said efforts will be made to reduce the problems with squatters and neutralize dissidents who create insecurity amongst farmers.

The prime minister said he is aware of members of the youth brigade, who are harassing farm workers in Matabeleland South, and added that police and ZANU-PF officials are working to stop this problem. Comrade Mugabe said the ruling party would rather have no party members than those who are forced to join it. He reassured farmers of a long tenure, saying the government will continue to buy farms as the need arises on a willing-seller, willing-buyer basis.

June Election Possible

MB170623 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT
17 Feb 85

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has announced that the general election may be postponed to June because a lot of people have not yet registered as voters. Addressing a national assembly meeting of the ZANU-PF Women's League in Harare yesterday, Comrade Mugabe said the delimitation commission does not think that it will be through with its work by May. He said the commission has not yet started working, and will not do so until the registration exercise is complete. Comrade Mugabe pointed out that there are still people queuing to register as voters, particularly in the communal lands.

The delimitation commission has indicated that it is impossible for it to finish its work in time for elections to be held in March, as earlier announced. Comrade Mugabe told the women that the plans will be made; they must work in their election campaign. He said the party's political line demands that it is honest, and that [word indistinct] work towards unity among the Zimbabweans. He warned that the people will not vote for the ruling party, if the leaders have tribalism and regionalism and at the same time fail to show that they want the people to achieve peace, justice, and prosperity. He said the political leaders must tell the people the truth in an honest and constructive manner.

The prime minister said regionalism and tribalism have given birth to dissidents, who rape, murder, abduct, and harass people. Comrade Mugabe assured the people that dissidents will be detected at the elections, because they are denying this nation peace, amity, and prosperity. He reminded the women at the meeting the ruling party cannot (?support) the wastefulness of the multiparty state this long. He said: We cannot afford to expend our resources and ability in spite of [word indistinct] and unproductive conflict (?persisted) by minority parties seeking [words indistinct].